JONATHAN WILD.

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THE

HISTORY

OF THE

Lives and Actions

OF

Jonathan Wild,

THIEF-TAKER.

Joseph Blake *alias* Bleuskin,

FOOT-PAD.

AND

John Sheppard, Housebreaker.

Giving a full and exact Account of *Jonathan*'s being Crown'd King of the *Gypsies*; the Ways and Means he made use of to reduce young People into Robberies, and afterwards hang them for their Deserts, and of the Reasons that induced *Bleuskin* to cut *Jonathan Wild*'s Throat. As also a true Relation of the Pranks *Jack Sheppard* played, and of his being Retaken.

Taken from several Papers found since Jonathan's *Death, with Letters and Private Confessions to Friends, never yet Publish'd.*

The Third Edition.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

The PREFACE.

ROBBERIES *of late were grown ſo common both in our* Houſes *and the* Streets, *that our* News-Papers *were daily ſtuff'd with little elſe but Advertiſements of* Pockets *pick'd,* Houſes *broke open, or* Ladies *ſtopp'd in their Coaches or Chairs, in the out Parts of the Town; which ſo alarmed the thinking Part of Mankind, that they could not imagine from what Quarter all this Roguery ſhould on a ſudden come. Some attributed it to want of Trade, others to a Neglect of proper Officers doing their Duty, and moſt wiſhed for a War, to rid the Country of ſuch Vermin, who were continually doing Miſchief in ſome Place or other: But none were ſo wiſe as to ſuſpect the Perſon who was the Original of all thoſe Misfortunes, although they went hourly to him to conſult how to recover their Loſſes; not dreaming he was the Rogue that ſet them at work, as well to raiſe his own Fame, as to enrich himſelf with the Spoils of other Men's Labours.*

Jonathan Wild's *Houſe about Eight a Clock in a Morning was as full as if it had been an Exchange, Gentleman and Ladies from all Parts reſorting thither, to deſire Mr.* Wild's *Intereſt to recover their loſt Things; who never vouchſafed to come out of his Chamber till his Emiſſaries told him his* Levee *was full; and then like a prime Miniſter, he diſpatched all away with good Words, though many of them had aking Hearts at the ſame time.*

And then retiring into his back Parlour, he looked over his Books, and calling his favourite Counſellor, Quilt Arnold, *to adviſe with, they would agree what was to be the Buſineſs of the Day, whether to* Hang or Save; *that is, whether any of the Thieves had been negligent in their ſeveral Stations, which if they had, to be ſure they were lopt next Seſſions; or whether they had not given in a juſt Account of what they had ſtollen laſt Night, which was always upon a ſecond Fault Tranſportation.*

Thus did this Villain for many Years, ſeem to have the Power of Life *and* Death; *and ſo artfully did he manage it, that even the Men in Power came into his Meaſures. No Perſon was try'd at the* Old Bayley *or any where elſe, if* Jonathan *was in Court, but Mr.* Wild *was conſulted about the Character of the Criminal: Which gave him ſuch Intereſt among the Thieves, that many of them really thought, if they could but keep in with Mr.* Wild *they need not fear, let them commit what Rogueries they would; by which means* Jonathan *had generally five hundred Hands at work for himſelf, out of which he allotted one or two to* Tyburn *every Seſſions, and may be half a Score at the ſeveral Aſſizes round about the Country, who had been negligent Rogues, he certainly reared up a Hundred for them in that time; ſo that his ſeveral Gangs multiplied wherever they went, and one hang'd Man commonly made half a dozen new Thieves.*

At length Jonathan Wild *became ſo notorious, that ſome of the Magiſtrates of the City, begun to ſuſpect him, and got an Act of Parliament paſſed againſt Receivers of ſtollen Goods, which made it Death, without delivering up the Thieves alſo: But this* Jonathan *ſeemed to avoid for a long time, till* Joſeph Blake *alias* Bleuskin *attempted to cut his Throat, which made People a little more inquiſitive into the Honeſty of the Man, which* Jonathan *was not unſenſible of, but carried it off with a a* Boom *Air for a long Time, till unluckily happening to differ with one* Edwards *belonging to Mrs.* Spurling, *concerning* Roger Johnſon, *a Creature of* Jonathan's.

After this Quarrel, Jonathan *was taken up on ſeveral Suſpicions; but neither Evidence nor Laws was ſufficient againſt him, had not he (like an infatuated Man done the Deed, by delivering ſtolen Goods to the Woman while in* Newgate, *and not ſurrendring the Thief) is become his own Evidence, Judge, and Jury.*

When Jonathan *received Sentence, and was carried back to* Newgate, *the People ſhewed great Acclamations of Joy, and the News-Papers ſounded the general Satisfaction*

faction of both gentle and simple for his Condemnation; and when he went to be hanged the People's Inveteracy was so great, that they was ready to kill him before he got to Tyburn

But Jack Sheppard bore quite another Character in the World, both Rich and Poor, Noble and Ignoble, pitying him, altho' his Crimes were audacious and many; yet the Boldness in his Attempts, and the Presence of Mind he always had to release himself out of Difficulties, made him pitied even by his Enemies, and those very Persons whom he had injured, could not but say, it was pity such an ingenious Fellow should be a Thief; which puffed him up with so much Ambition, that he even took a Pleasure in telling of his Rogueries, and usually sent the Company away, who came to see him in his Chains, with as much Pleasure as Admiration: For altho' he was so strictly Chain'd down to the Floor, which must needs be a Pain to him, yet he took as much Delight in giving People Answers, as they did in asking him, and when alone, he spent his Time in trying new Ways and Means to make his Escape; never so much as once having any Thought of dying, believing to the last he should be rescued, which he certainly had been, had not the Keepers took that necessary Precaution of putting Cuffs upon his Hands, which is not usual upon such Occasions: And altho' he was brought safe to the Tree and hanged up, yet before he was dead he was cut down, and killed by his Friends, who had not well consulted how, and in what manner to carry him off, or else he had not died at last. He was afterwards brought to a Bayliff's House in Long-Acre, who under a Pretence of securing his Body from the Surgeons, had taken it for their Use? which the Populace understanding, soon made him deliver it up to be buried. And altho' his Royal Highness sent part of his Guards to keep Quietness, yet the Bayliff and his House had much ado to escape their Fury: So much Interest had Jack among them, that his very Name to this Day seems to move Pity from all that knew him, and Admiration from all that hear of him, which is very well described in the following Verses.

Cartouch himſelf did never *France* ſurprize,
With half ſuch bold Exploits, or Robberies.
He, whom no *Goal* could hold, no *Chains* make fa
By *Death*'s ſuperior Bands is tam'd at laſt;
Hard Fate at *Tyburn*'s *Triple-Tree* he ſwung,
But whilſt alive was reſcu'd by the Throng;
On Thouſand and Ten Thouſand Heads he rid,
And by his Friends ill Conduct, not the Hangman dy

Joſeph Blake *alias* Bleuskin *was notorious for ma Things, and only famed for one, that is, in attempting* cut Jonathan Wild's *Throat, which he not doing effect ally, was the only Thing that grieved him, as he to the Judge; who asking him how he could be ſo impude as to offer to commit Murther in the Court, ſaid,* He w only ſorry that he had not done it, *for never did ſu a Rogue as* Wild *live, and go unpuniſhed ſo long.*

There was ſcarce a Robbery about the Town for ſon Years, but Bleuskin *was concerned in it, till* Jack She pard *grew up and cut him out; for* Jack *was not on dexterous at his Buſineſs, but quick at Invention; a there was no Danger a Thief could fall into but* She pard's *Preſence of Mind would ſoon extricate him; whi made him not only the Darling of the Mob, but the F vourite of* Jonathan, *who was heard to ſay that Day was hang'd; that* he had not left his Fellow behind hin

In ſhort, this little Book contains all that ever has be ſaid or written of them that is true; wherein the Read may ſee the Ways and Means Villains make uſe of to bu ble Mankind out of their Moneys and Goods: For the never was three greater Rogues than Wild, Bleuskin, a Sheppard, *and yet each of them excelled in different Way and yet as cunning as they all were,* Tyburn *had its du at laſt. And indeed it very ſeldom fails of ſuch, one Da or other, which I hope may be a Warning to all un-far young People, that they never ſuffer themſelves to be deln ded by any ill Company they may fall into, and remembe* Jonathan Wild *and* Jack Sheppard, *let them be ever cunning or artful, the End will be fatal at laſt.*

THE

THE LIFE OF Jonathan Wild.

JONATHAN WILD was born in the Town of *Wolverhampton* in *Staffordshire* in the Year 1684. of poor, but honest Parents; who being the First-Fruits of their Love, they made hard Shift to put him an Apprentice to a Buckle-Maker at *Birmingham*, which so straiten'd the old Man, that he was afterwards arrested for the Money he borrow'd to put him out, and thrown into *Wolverhampton* Goal, where, after a long and tedious Confinement, he died; and his Mother was left with five Children to take Care of, three Sons and two Daughters; one, whose Name was *John*, was a Catch-pole, and was whipt for pulling down a Meeting-house at *Wolverhampton*, and lost his Place, the other was a *Buckle-maker*, and lies now in the *Poultry-Compter* for Debt.

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In the Time of his Apprenticeſhip, he would commit a thouſand little Rogueries, amongſt his Companions and Fellow-Servants, who had a leſs Faculty of diſcerning than *Jonathan*; but I never heard that he was in his ſeven Years guilty of any Robberies, eſpecially any that were found out, but ſerv'd out his Time chearfully, and to his Maſter's Satisfaction; who finding him a Boy not much caring for Work, if he could help it, lent him a ſmall Sum of Money to carry on a little peddling Buſineſs at Markets in the ſame way. But *Jonathan* loved Company better than Buſineſs, which is commonly the Fault of Men who love to hear themſelves talk; and when he had either Money or Credit neglected his Buſineſs, running from one Ale-houſe to another, with any Body he could pick up, eſpecially a Parcel of ſtrolling Players, who happen'd at that time to be in *Wolverhampton*, of whoſe Company *Jonathan* was very fond, and with whom he ſoon waſted his little Stock.

When they were gone, *Jonathan* ſhifted as well as he could, but was look'd upon in the Neighbourhood to be an idle drunken Fellow, and often in danger of being preſs'd for a Soldier, which put him upon many Shifts to avoid; and which he could never have done, but by a Knack of diſlocating his Hip-bone, which he had learn'd when he was a Boy, and could do it without Pain, and thereby render himſelf a Cripple, and replace it without any Trouble, whenever he had a Mind, which he always did at the Noiſe of a Drum, or Sight of a red Coat, and did it ſo artfully, that he often mov'd Pity in the Soldiers; and he was no ſooner out of Sight, but he could walk as well as the beſt of them.

But this not long doing, he being ſoon diſcover'd, *Jonathan* hires a Horſe of a Man he was formerly uſed to do, when he kept the Markets, and rides up with it to *London*, where he was no ſooner come

but

but he ſold it, and ſpent the Money in Rioting and Wantonneſs, in the Hundreds of *Drury*, where he got acquainted with a parcel of Bayliffs, who cheat the Whores in the Morning, of what they rob their Culls over Night, it being cuſtomary with them to give the Whores two or three Quarterns of *Gin*, and then put them a Fighting, upon which they arreſt one another, and at Night getting drunk together, leave it to the Bayliff, who pretends to be both their Friends as long as they have any Money, and then kick them out of Doors for a parcel of noiſy Whores.

But *Jonathan* as yet was not acquainted well enough with the World, to be admitted into their Society, and his Money being ſpent, and he finding himſelf neglected, reſolves to retire into the Country and follow the Trade of *Buckle-making*, which he did for ſome time pretty carefully; but the Man whoſe Horſe he hired, ſoon hearing of him, put him out of his Gears again. *Jonathan* told him, it ſignified nothing to make Words, he had ſold the Horſe, and ſpent the Money, but if he would take two Shillings a Month, he would follow his Trade and pay him, which the poor Man agreed to, thinking it better to take his Money ſo, than loſe all. And accordingly *Jonathan* made him two or three Payments very honeſtly, but Work not long agreeing with him, he ſoon left off; which the Man finding, he gave him a Dun, telling him the Month was up: Which ſo much ſurpriz'd *Jonathan*, that he flatly told him, he would pay him no more, and wondered at his Aſſurance in making any Demands on him. *Why* ſaith the Creditor, *did not you run away with my Horſe and ſell him? I did ſo*, ſaith *Jonathan*, *but that was agreed on between us, that I ſhould pay you two Shillings a Month. Very well*, reply'd the Creditor, *Why don't you pay me then according to your Promiſe? No*, ſaith *Jonathan*, *that*

Contract ſignifies nothing; for you know, ſaith he, *Articles not fulfilled are broken, and our Articles I am ſure are broken, for their are near four Payments due, and I have only paid two, therefore I owe you nothing, and nothing will I pay you,* Which ſhews that *Jonathan* did not go to *London* for nothing, but had learn'd ſome Law for his Money, amongſt his old Acquaintance the Bayliffs; which Anſwer was look'd upon to be ſo evaſive, that it was thought if *Jonathan* had continued in the Country, he might in his Way have made as good a Figure in the Country, as ſome of his Countrymen have done in *London.*

But *Jonathan* wanted Money and Friends to carry on ſuch Buſineſs, and hated Work, becauſe he found he could get but little by it, therefore he reſolv'd once more to try his Fortune at *London,* which he did on Foot only with *Nine-pence* in his Pocket; when meeting with a Woman on Horſe-back, a going to *Warwick,* he fell into diſcourſe with her for three or four Miles, till at length they grew intimate, and told each other their Circumſtances. She ſaid, ſhe was a travelling Doctreſs, and went up and down for the Good of the Poor; which *Jonathan* hearing, very ſubmiſſively deſired her to give him her Opinion of his Thigh, which he diſlocated as before, who alighting and handling the Parts, found his Hip-bone out of the Socket, and his Knee and Foot turn'd almoſt behind him, which amazed the Woman, being inſenſible of the Cauſe; but *Jonathan* preſently put her out of Trouble, and deſired her to get up, and he would go with her into the Town, which he did; and ſhe by the way told him, how beneficial this might be to them both, if he would lie in Bed for a Fortnight, and he ſhould have whatever he had a Mind to eat and drink, ſaying, ſhe knew no more of Phyſick

ſick than her Horſe, and what ſhe did, was only to get a Livelihood.

Accordingly the Match was made, and *Jonathan* hopp'd into the Town, as if he had been a poor decrepid Beggar-man, where the *Doctreſs*, ſet up at an Inn, and told the Landlord, ſhe had met a poor Man upon the Road, who ſeeming a likely young Fell, ſhe had Compaſſion on him, and would ſet him upon his Legs, that he might be able to get his Livelihood; adding, that if there was ever an eminent *Surgeon* in the Town, that would undertake the Cure, ſhe ſhould be at the Expence of it, and give him a ſuitable Reward; to which the Landlord agreed, and *Jonathan* pray'd for his *Benefactreſs*. A *Surgeon* being ſent for, he examined the Parts, and enquired how long it was ſince this Misfortune had happened to him; which he anſwer'd in a whining Tone, was about eight Years, by the falling of a Tree in a Country Village, where no Help was to be had, and his Friends not wherewith to ſend for a Doctor from another Place, he had continu'd Lame ever ſince. Upon which, the Doctor addreſſing to the Gentlewoman, ſaid, *He was very ſorry for the young Man, but that it would be no leſs than a Robbery to take her Money, for their was no poſſibility of doing him any good, for the Head of the Bone form'd a Socket ſo formidable that it could not be removed, and the beſt way was to let it alone as it was.* At which Word *Jonathan* ſeemed to be mightily concerned, as well as the Gentlewoman, who offered to lay a Wager of Fifty Guineas, that ſhe could cure it herſelf, but pretended the ſtaying ſo long would be a mighty Hindrance to her in her Buſineſs. However, if he would lay her ſuch a Wager to defray the Charges of her Time, ſhe would ſtay for the Good of the young Man. Which the Surgeon agreed to, and the Moneys put into the Landlord's Hands.

Fomentations were applied several times a Day, and the Surgeon as often visited him, being curious to know how she would do it. All the while *Jonathan* acted his Part so well, that he roared himself Hoarse, during the Application, till in a Fortnight's Time, as the Surgeon with two or three Friends was coming up Stairs, they heard *Jonathan*, instead of Groaning and making dismal Cries, as usual, Singing and Whistling, at which they all burst into his Chamber, and ask'd what was the Matter; *Oh*, saith *Jonathan*, *I am as well as ever I was in my Life*; how? said they. *he answ'r'd*, *About three a Clock that Morning* (*not having slept for four Nights before*) *he fell a dozing, and dream'd that two Angels lifted him out of his Bed, and carried him thro' several Regions, wherein he saw beautiful Walks, in the midst of which walk'd his kind and good Benefactress, at the Sight of whom, he arose and walk'd about as well as ever he did in his Life, finding the Bone in its proper Place.*

Not only the People, but the Surgeon own'd that Cure as a Miracle, who not only yielded the Wager lost, but publickly declared, there could be no Deceit in it. Upon which *Jonathan* came abroad the next Day, but limp'd a little. And the *Doctress* got so great an Esteem amongst the People, that they flock'd in unto her from all Quarters; for whose Sake she vouchsafed publickly to declare, that she would stay amongst them a Fortnight longer and cure the poor *Gratis*, only what the Medicines cost her out of her Pocket, according to the Cant of all *Quacks*. By which her Fame was so raised, she found after all Charges were deducted, that she was above 100 *l.* in Pocket, with which *Jonathan* and she agreed to go to *London*, where *Jonathan* liv'd a merry Life as long as the Money lasted, which so provok'd the Doctress, seeing her Money all squander'd away, that she arrests him in an Action

of

of Debt, and throw'd him into *Woodſtreet-Compter*, where he ſuffer'd great Hardſhips, having neither Money nor Friends, being on the Common-ſide.

Here *Jonathan* laid the Foundation of all his future Roguery; for oftentimes *Thieves* and *Pick-pockets* are put in the *Compter*, before they are carried to a Juſtice of the Peace, or ſometimes lye there a conſiderable Time for want of Evidences, with whom *Jonathan* ſoon cultivated an Acquaintance, and was let into the Secret of all their Tricks and Stratagems; amongſt whom *Jonathan* at length became a ſort of a Counſellor, adviſing them in all the knotty Parts of the Law.

Here it was that he eſtabliſh'd an Acquaintance with a She Lawyer, or rather a She Devil, whoſe Name was *Mary Milliner*, one who had a thorough Knowledge of all the ill People in the Town; and having herſelf gone oftner round the Circle of Vice, then even Sir *Walter R*—— did the World, unto whom *Jonathan* gave himſelf *to have and to hold, for better for worſe*, according to the Cuſtoms of Priſons, got drunk together, and ſwore to be true to one another, which they had been for ought I know to this Day, had not *Jonathan* firſt run aſtray, and lov'd other Women, which his poor honeſt Wife could not bear, ſhe knowing too well what belongs to it, having been a Whore many Years herſelf, by which ſhe was grown ſo formidable, that none but *Jonathan* or the *D*——*l* would have took her up with a Pair of Tongs.

At the firſt they took a Lodging in *Colſton's-Court* in *Drury-Lane*, where he was almoſt ſtarv'd to Death, and was glad to take up his old Trade of being a Setter to the *Marſhal's-Court* Bayliff, which he practis'd in the Day-time, and at Night was a Bully to all the Whores thereabouts, ſo that in a little Time he became a compleat Stallion, and had got Acquaintance amongſt all the Thieves and Whores

in the Hundreds, which made *Jonathan* think of moving his Quarters, and for better Conveniency take a little Houſe in *Lewkners-lane*, where he ſoon got acquainted with all the Gentry of the firſt Rank in that Neighbourhood, namely, the Gentlemen of the *Kid-lay*, *Filing-lay*, *Diving-Files*, *Snabblers*, *Glaziers*, *Ripping-Coves*, *Vulcan-Coves*, *Merry-Coves*, *Knowing-Fellows*, *Family-Fellows*, *Sneaking-Budges*, *Bulking-Files*, *Cackling-Coves*, *Ratling-Couts and Fencers*, to whom he aſſigned certain Walks wherein they ſhould rob, and alſo appointed a Governor of each Company under him, who at leaſt twice in every Week was obliged to attend him, and bring in his Plunder; to whom he paid one half of the Value thereof, and was to be true to them, without *Whidling*, and alſo provide and aſſiſt them with Money when they had none, and could not light of a Prize, and to ſupply them with proper Inſtruments for their Purpoſe when requir'd.

He alſo at every Attendance given him by thoſe Sub-Governors, enquires who performs beſt, and who not, which being anſwered, he forthwith gives Commiſſion to the Sub-Governor to introduce them as are incapable into ſome Robbery, wherein one or the other as is moſt polite ſhall ſuffer himſelf to be taken on purpoſe to make himſelf an Evidence againſt them, and for ſo doing is allow'd one fifth Part of the Reward given by the Government for every one that is convicted; ſo that it was plain whenever any of the Rogues could not bring in Griſt to *Jonathan*'s Mill, he was ſure to be nubb'd in a little time by *Jonathan*, or his Man *Quilt Arnold*; and to prevent the Governors ever ſqueaking, he generally every other Seſſions, cauſed one or two of them to be hang'd.

The Governors at Attendance, were oblig'd to give an Account in what manner, and from whom, the Goods were ſtolen, that he might know how

to

to give Information of the ſame, and hang them for their Pains, if he found Occaſion, for finding that his Number greatly increaſed, to prevent Diſcoveries by the old ones, he was obliged oftentimes to hang them out of the way, which put him into ſuch hurry of Buſineſs, that he was forced to leave his Habitation in *Drury-lane*, and take another near to the *Seſſions-Houſe* in the *Old-Bayly*, that he might be always at hand at every Call, when Occaſion requir'd.

Amongſt all his Female Clients *Jonathan* was not ſlow in his Addreſſes, but more eſpecially to one Mrs. *Mary Read*, a Lady of no ſmall Reputation amongſt the *Buttock-Files*, being one of the Daughters of *Jerry Read*, late of *Paddington*, in the County of *Middleſex*, Gent. deceaſed; after whoſe Deceaſe ſhe had determined to go to an Eſtate that the Law had given her in *America*. But *Jonathan* falling in Love with her, and ſhe with him to ſuch a Degree, that the Devil could not part them, ſhe obtained leave to ſtay at Home, and lived with her hopeful Acquaintance, as moſt married Men do, ſometimes a playing, and oftner a fighting. He was by this time become a Perſon of great Repute about the Town, having a Silver hilted Sword, and a Footman at his Heels, which ſo alarmed Mr. *H—ch—n*, formerly the City Marſhal, that they went to Loggerheads, and a Paper War was carried on between them; not a Paper came out without calling themſelves the Original, till at length *Wild* called himſelf *The Thief-Catcher General of Great Britain and Ireland*, pretending to have a Patent for it, which put a Stop to any further Proceedings againſt each other, and *Jonathan* was own'd the ſole Proprietor.

About this Time an Accident happened, which gave him great Repute in the World, which was the robbing of the Counteſs of *G—d—n's* Chair, of the Crimſon Velvet Seat and Furniture, very rich,

whilſt the Lady was paying a Viſit, and the Chairmen drinking at an Ale-houſe hard by; who making Application to *Wild*, and giving him his Fee, told them he would conſider of it, and they muſt come again in two or three Days, which they did, and he inſiſted then of a pretty handſome Reward, which the poor Chairmen were forced to comply with for fear of diſobliging their Lady. When done, he ordered them to be at Prayers at *Lincoln's Inn* next Morning, where, to their great Joy, they found the Chair juſt as it was before it was robb'd.

Theſe Things gave him a great Reputation in the Town as well as among the Thieves, who thought *Jonathan* the beſt Agent they could employ, ſo that his Buſineſs encreaſed every Day upon his Hands; and it was generally thought, he got by Commiſſion only four or five Hundred Pounds a Year, by which *Jonathan* turned out with his Plate, and a large Silver Punch-Bowl, and Madam in her Silks and a Gold Watch, and who but *Jonathan* and his *Lady* are conſulted upon all Occaſions.

But it is no Wonder he ſhould thus by Degrees increaſe in Buſineſs; for no Man grows rich at once, but having got all the Buſineſs to himſelf, he became as uſeful to the Thieves as they to him; for they could have ready Money for what they ſtole, from him, which they thought much ſafer than when they went about to diſpoſe of their Goods themſelves. But as the Thieves firſt ſet him up only as their Factor, he ſoon grew upon them, and made himſelf their Maſter: Nay, very often, their Tyrant, dividing the City and Country into Diviſions, and appointing the Perſons who were to attend each Walk, and kept them ſtrictly to their Duty, often calling them to a very exact Account, and making them produce what they had got; nay, tho' it were Moneys he would have his Dividend, and it was no leſs than Death to *ſink* upon him; for there was ſcarce any

any thing ſtolen, which was worth having again, but he heard of it, and knew who the Perſon muſt be that took it, as well as thoſe who loſt it.

This is plain, by what happened to a Gentlewoman at *Hackney*, who uſed to let Lodgings; to whom a pretended Lady came attended by a Footman and a Maid, and took a Lodging in her Houſe, which they had no ſooner took Poſſeſſion of, but they broke open a Scrutore belonging to the Landlady, full of *Chince* and *Muſlin*, and carried off the whole Cargoe, which ſoon was noiſed about in the Neighbourhood, who adviſed her to go to *Jonathan Wild*, and give him a Sum of Money to recover them; which ſhe did, and gave him an Account where ſhe lived, and what ſhe had loſt. All which *Jonathan* hearing with a great deal of Gravity, he called to his Book-keeper to ſearch the Books, to know if any of their People had been lately out to take the Air at *Hackney*. Who after Examination, anſwer'd, That *Wapping-Moll* had been there, and *Tawney-Beſs* was her Maid, and *Harry-Smart* her Footman. At which *Jonathan* ſeemed to be in a great Paſſion, and curs'd them ſufficiently, deſiring the Gentlewoman to call in a Day or two, and he would ſee what he could do for her in the mean time, which ſhe did, and he ordered the Things to be brought to her upon her paying the Money agreed for.

Mrs. *Knapp*, a Widow Gentlewoman, being barbarouſly murthered in the *Jockey-Fields* near *Gray's-Inn*, by four Foot pads, as ſhe was going from *Sadler's-Wells*, in Company of her Son, a large Reward was offered for the Diſcovery of the Murtherers: upon which *Jonathan Wild* got Information, that *Isaac Ragg*, one of the Villains, was ſecreted in a Houſe near *Lambeth-Marſh*. He got a Warrant and inveſted the Houſe, tho' the *Ruffian* declared from within, that he would ſhoot the firſt Man that entred

entred. But this did not fear *Jonathan*, who resolutely with Piſtol in Hand, burſt open the Door, and received *Ragg*'s Fire, which he returned, and then ſecured him, and brought him to *Newgate*, where he making a Diſcovery of *White*, *Thurland*, and *Chapman*, his Confederates in the Murder and Robbery, they were apprehended, and at the *Seſſions* in the *Old-Bayly* in *May* 1716, they were convicted, and in the ſame Month executed at *Tyburn*, upon *Ragg*'s Evidence, which was the principal Witneſs againſt them; for which he received his Pardon, and *Wild* a handſome Reward for his Service.

Not long after this, Complaint was made of one *Arnold Powel*, a notorious Houſe-breaker, who committed great Depredations in the Town, he being ſeiz'd near *Golden Square*, in attempting to break a Houſe in the Night-time, was committed to *Newgate*, whom *Wild* hearing was poſſeſſed of a pretty round Sum of *Ready Rhino*, he gave him to underſtand, he expected a Pair of Gloves, by way of *Huſh-money*, or if it pleaſe God to take him to himſelf, to be remembered in his laſt Will. But *Powel* being an impudent Rogue defy'd him, and bid him do his worſt, ſwearing it was not in his Power to do him any harm. Which ſo provok'd *Wild*, that he ſwore he ſhould ſuffer for it, and ſoon exchange this Life for a *better* or *worſe*, and finding out Mr. *Eaſtlick*, a *Glaſs-maker* at *Fleet-ditch*, whoſe Houſe he had broke open and robb'd, *Jonathan* goes to him, and told him, He was very glad he had got that obdurate Rogue *Powel*, and he would hang him if there were never another in the World; which Mr. *Eaſtlick* was very glad of, being altogether unacquainted with *Old-Bayly* Matters, he left the Management of the whole Affair to *Jonathan*, who by this time found *Powel* quite another Man; and conſidering he had already made a ſad Havock amongſt the Brethren, ſtruck up a Peace with *Powel*,

who

who being a very *uſeful Hand*, it would be carrying the Jeſt too far, ſaith *Jonathan*, to cut him off; and therefore he put his Brains to work, to conſider how he might ſave him and get his Deliverance; which he did endeavour to do after this Manner: When Mr. *Eaſtlick* came with his Witneſſes to the *Old-Bayly* to proceed againſt the Priſoner, *Wild* told him, the Court would be taken up all the firſt and ſecond Days with other Tryals, and bid them go home and mind their Buſineſs, and he would ſend for them when their was Occaſion, they being near enough. And in the mean time he gets *Powel* to be ſet to the Bar, and Arraign'd: The Witneſſes were called Time after Time. *Wild* being in Court, declared he knew not what was become of them, nor where to find them. And after the Priſoners's being two Days together ſet to the Bar, and no Body appearing againſt him, the *Lord Chief Baron Bury* acquitted him, and order'd the Proſecutor's Recognizance to be eſtreated; and the next Day there was to have been an Order of Court for the Priſoner's Enlargment; which coming to the Proſecutor's Knowledge, he apply'd himſelf to Sir *William Thompſon* the Recorder, who called upon Mr. *Wild* in Court, and after a ſevere Reprimand, for ſtifling the Proſecution of ſo notorious an Offender, ordered him to ſtand committed to *Newgate*, till the next Seſſions; when he endeavoured to elude his Trial, by putting himſelf into a Salivation; but that not doing, he was try'd, convicted, and executed for Mr. *Eaſtlick*'s Robbery.

Two ancient Women came to Mr. *Wild* at his Houſe in the *Old-Bayly*, telling him they were Lodgers in the Houſe of a wealthy *Cain-Chair-Maker*, in *Wormwoodſtreet* near the *South-Sea-Houſe*, which might be very eaſily robbed by a good Hand, to whom they will give their beſt Aſſiſtance, provided they had a *Moiety* of the Booty. Which

Propoſal

Propoſal *Wild* could not approve of, having lately had ſuch a Reprimand from the Recorder, judging it not adviſeable to be engaged in ſuch an Enterprize with Strangers, without any Recommendations or proper Credentials from any of the Buſineſs; and believing that the ſeizing them might be of ſome Service to reſtore him to the *Recorder*'s Favour again, he very diſcreetly made a Merit of the Matter, and ſtopt the Women, who were committed to *Newgate*; and at the enſuing Seſſions convicted of the Miſdemeanour, and for it Fin'd and Impriſon'd.

Thus *Jonathan* went on for the moſt part ſucceſsful in his Buſineſs, which drew ſuch a vaſt Reſort of People of all Ranks and Conditions to his Houſe, that it was become a Queſtion and Matter of Diſpute in the Town, whether the *Lord-High-Chancellor*, or the *Thief-Taker-General* had the largeſt Levee, both having ſome honeſt, and more diſhoneſt to attend them. Amongſt the latter, did every *Sunday* Morning, it being a good Day, the better Deed, attend *Jonathan Wild* for new Inſtructions, many *Clout-Files*, *Diving-Files*, *Snabblers*, *Glaziers*, *Ripping-Coves*, *Vulcan-Coves*, *Merry-Coves*, *Knowing-Fellows*, *Sneaking-Budges*, *Bulking-Files*, *Cackling-Coves*, *Ratling-Coves*, and *Fencers*, who had uſually when he gave them Audience, before him, *Wine*, *Brandy*, *Punch*, and *Tobacco*, and if any of them had done well, as he uſed to call it; that is, been remarkable for any great Piece of Roguery the precedent Week; he would condeſcend to drink to them, which was looked upon as a great Piece of Honour; and of which ſome of the Youngſters would boaſt amongſt their Companions, till they came to be hang'd as a farther Mark of his Favour.

Thus

Thus he made them all pay Contribution, whether they made uſe of him in diſpoſing of the Things or no; and when the late Act was made, which pardons one Felon for convicting another, *Jonathan* became abſolute over them all; for if any of them diſobliged him, or as he called it *rebelled*, he took them up, by which he got the Reward appointed by Act of Parliament, for taking a Highway-man. On the other Hand, when any of his own People where taken, which he had a Mind to ſave, he took ſome other, that his own Man whom he had a Mind to ſave, might become an *Evidence*, and ſave himſelf according to the Act of Parliament. But when ever any interloping Trader ſet up for himſelf, that is, thoſe who robbed without paying him any Contribution, or holding any Correſpondence with him, he did all he could to take them; and if it ſhould happen that any ſuch were taken up upon Suſpicion, or upon Information, and Evidence was wanting to convict them, it was cuſtomary for him to take up one of his own Fellows, whoſe Life was always in his Power, and make him ſwear himſelf into ſome of the Robberies of which the others were ſuſpected, whereby their Evidence might obtain ſome Credit with the Jury, and *Jonathan* was entitled to the Reward if he was the Perſon who took them.

And thus by taking ſome of his own Gang now and then, when they had diſobliged him, and apprehending others, becauſe they were not of his Gang, and hanging them right or wrong, as he thought fit, he was at length reckoned a very uſeful Man, and was often called upon by the Court to look at the Priſoners, and give them Characters; which ſeem'd to have great Weight with the Judge and Jury at that Time, though no queſtion but he hang'd many wrongfully. Nay, ſometimes by ingenious Quirks, or by managing the Juries or Evi-

dences,

dences, he has brought off ſome of his Favourites, who had been taken in the very Facts for which they were committed; as he did once by two Fellows, who having committed a Robbery on the Highway, and ſeveral Perſons well mounted and arm'd happening to come by juſt after they were purſued, and taken with the Gentleman's Money, Watches, and Rings about them, and being forthwith carried before a Juſtice of the Peace, were committed to *Newgate* a Day or two before the Seſſions begun: Which *Jonathan* hearing of, enquired of them the Names of the Proſecutor's, and then went to them, and ask'd them if they had not been robb'd by ſuch and ſuch Fellows, now in *Newgate*? who anſwer'd they had. Againſt whom *Jonathan* pretending a great Spleen, ſaid, They were two of the greateſt Rogues in the World, and that he would have hang'd them long ago if he could have found them, and therefore begged of the Gentlemen that he might aſſiſt them in managing the Proſecution, and he would engage the Raſcals ſhould not eſcape. To which the Gentlemen readily agreed, being glad to have part of the Trouble taken off their Hands, knowing Mr. *Wild* to be a Man very well skill'd in thoſe Affairs, and accordingly they appointed to meet at a Tavern in the *Old-Bayly*, the next Morning, which was appointed for their Trial. Where *Jonathan* told them, there was a great Crowd in the Court, and that they had better ſtay there till the Tryal ſhould be called on, which would not be till about Three a Clock in the Afternoon. In the mean time a Dinner was beſpoke, and *Jonathan* ſent a Man to wait in the Court, with Orders to call them when the Tryal came on, who made ſuch good Uſe of his Time, whether by putting ſomething into the Punch, or by fair Drinking is uncertain, tho' it is certain he made the Gentlemen very drunk, who paſs'd away

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the Time till Evening without thinking of the Matter; when one of them wondering that the Meſſenger had not called them, they ſent to the Court to know when their Tryal would come on, who brought Word back, that the Court was broke up, and the two Highwaymen diſcharged, becauſe no Evidence appeared againſt them.

About this time *Mary Read* his third Wife dying, he was mightily taken with the Charms of one Mrs. *Mary D—n*, the Reliet of *Skull D—n*, anotorious Robber, who was executed at *Tyburn*. Her Aunt Mrs. *Sp—l—g*, who kept the Tap-houſe at *Newgate*, gave all the Oppoſition ſhe could to the Match; but *Jonathan*'s handſomeneſs prevail'd, and their Loves being reciprocal, in Spite of all the Diſturbance of the Aunt, the Match went on, and they were married at *Pancraſs-Church*, *February* the 19th, 1718-19, the Day as *Prior*, *Vickars* and *Parquot* ſuffer'd at *Tyburn*. The Ordinary of *Newgate* and the Hangman appearing at the Tree with Gloves and Favours, ſurprized the Spectators; and it was concluded among the Mob, that one of the Malefactors was to be married to ſome tender-hearted Virgin under the Tree: But it was ſoon known all over the Town that Mr. *Wild* and Madam *D—n* had taken one another, *To have and to hold* in the holy State of Matrimony. *Favours* and *Gloves* were alſo plentifully diſtributed to the *Turnkeys* and their Aſſiſtants, to be worn in Honour of the Nuptials. And Mr. *Wild*'s Benevolence upon this Occaſion was extended in a very particular Manner to all the Felons in *Newgate*, who had ſeveral Anchors of Brandy given them to be made into Punch. The Wedding was kept ſeveral Days ſucceſſively at Mr. *Wild*'s Houſe in the *Old-Bayly*, but yet *Madam* Wild's *Aunt* continued inflexible, and would not be reconciled, notwithſtanding

ſtanding all the Mediation of the good People of *Newgate*.

Madam *Wild* was very deſirous of an *Iſſue-Male*, to inherit the Father's Virtues, but there being no Appearance of ſuch an Happineſs, on Account of the former Breaches her Husband's Conſtitution had undergone by a Salivation not well manag'd, ſhe had ſome Thoughts once of employing one *John Molhony*, an *Iriſhman*, who lay under Condemnation, but he happening to be hang'd the very next Day, that wicked Thought of defiling her Husband's Bed ſoon vaniſh'd away, and ſhe never thought on him afterwards.

Mr. *Wild* after his Marriage bought his Lady a new Set of Plate, and who but Madam *Wild* in the Neighbourhood. And in the midſt of all his Jollity a lucky Hit happen'd, which recover'd his ſhatter'd Reputation; for the Earl of *B—l—n* and the Lord *B——ce*, being robb'd in *Richmond-lane* of a Gold Watch, and a blue Saphire-Ring of great Value, beſides Money, Mr. *Wild* chanc'd to know the Rogues, and being inform'd of the Haunts of *James Wright*, a Peruke-maker on *Ludgate-hill*, one of the Perſons concern'd in the Fact, *Wild* apprehended him at the *Queen's-head* Tavern on *Tower-hill* in the Kitchin, before a great Number of Men, after a very great Reſiſtance made by the Robber, who drew his Piſtols, but *Wild* being cloſely engag'd with him, he had not an Opportunity to cock them, and the Thief-taker held him faſt by the Chin with his Teeth; for *Jonathan* was a ſtrong-mouth'd Dog, till he dropp'd his Fire-Arms, ſurrender'd, and was brought to *Newgate*; and being convicted of other Robberies in *Middleſex*, he was executed at *Tyburn*, being the firſt Maleſactor who was hang'd in his burial Shrowd; which is ſo much now in Faſhion amongſt them, that ye have not an Execution, but you have one or two hang'd in

in their Shrowds, which it is ſuppoſed they do to prevent falling into the Hands of the Surgeons, which is to them but of little or no Service; for the Surgeons often deceive the Mob, and get their Bodies notwithſtanding. However, the taking of *Wright* proved a very good Benefit-Ticket to *Jonathan*, who had not only the Reward given by Act of Parliament for the apprehending and convicting of a Highwayman, but alſo my Lord *B——ce*'s Gold Watch, which was found in *Wright*'s Pocket, which *Jonathan* preſented to his Wife as a Token of his Love and Affection to her, ſhe being now become *Bone of his Bone, and Fleſh of his Fleſh*; and indeed a very handſome Couple they were as ever was unhang'd.

So that by a little Courage, and more Cunning, *Jonathan* paſſed for a Man of ſo much Underſtanding and Intereſt, that the Thieves began to think he could hang or ſave whom he pleaſed: And all Malefactors, whether of his own Gang, or not, after they were taken, uſed to flatter themſelves, that if they could raiſe any Money for *Jonathan* he would bring them off; and even after they were Condemn'd, they were of Opinion, that his extraordinary Intereſt might procure them a Reprieve, or have the Sentence chang'd to Tranſportation, but whether he had it at this Time of Day or not, I ſhall not preſume to ſay: It it is certain, that it was one of his Arts to make them believe ſo, and by which he often took them in; and to carry on his Deſigns the better, he uſed to affect an extraordinary Intimacy with certain *Juſtices* of the Peace, and ſometimes would intrude himſelf into their Company, and drink with them at Taverns, when he uſed to leave Word at Home, if any one ſhould enquire for him he was gone to ſuch a Tavern to meet Juſtice *V——n* or Juſtice *C——n*. The Uſe he made by

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intimating this Notion into their Heads was, that if any Information ſhould be given to thoſe Juſtices, againſt any of his Friends, he ſhould have timely Notice of it from them or their Clerks; ſo that he could give Intelligence to the Party to get out of the Way, which was a material Thing towards keeping his People always depending on him.

You may imagine by the Account I have already gave of *Jonathan*, that he muſt be a Fellow of no uncommon Parts—— To govern a Common-wealth fixed and eſtabliſhed, is no more than what may be done by any common Capacity: But to form and eſtabliſh a Body of ſuch lawleſs People into what we call a Form of Government, to erect a Common-wealth like that of the Bees, in which there ſhall be no Drone, and in which every Member is obliged to go forth and labour, and 'to bring an Offering to *Jonathan Wild* their King, or Part of the Product of their Induſtry and Cunning; to be able ſo many Years together to evade the Puniſhments, appointed by the Laws of all Nations, for ſuch Perſons as make no Difference betwixt *Meum* and *Tuum*, and to live not only in a Toleration, but even in a kind of Credit, amongſt the People he was robbing every Day; and above all, to eſcape the Plots and Conſpiracies of his own treacherous Subjects——— I ſay, certainly to be able to manage all this, muſt proceed from an admirable Wit and Cunning, and thorough Obſervations of the Humours and weak Sides of Men. I know *Dummy Campbel* pretends to ſay, that *Jonathan* learned the Black-Art of him, and that he had Dealings with the Devil; but one would think that dumb Philoſopher was not ſo cunning himſelf, or elſe he would never have ſuffer'd himſelf to be kidnapt by Bayliffs ſo often as he has: But it is ſaid he loſes his Skill out of the Verge of the Court; although

although it is certain he is one of the greateſt Impoſtor's that ever was born, and doth as much Harm amongſt the ſimple and honeſt Maidens, as ever *Jonathan* did good amongſt the Thieves: And ſome People ſay, 'tis a pity but they had been both hang'd together.

But to return to our Subject, we have taken Notice in what manner *Jonathan*'s Revenues were rais'd and increas'd; but as his Subjects were ſo frequently taken off by untimely Ends, and that it was neceſſary it ſhould be ſo to ſupport himſelf in his Dignity; for otherwiſe his Royalty would by Degrees have declined, and ſunk at laſt to little or nothing, if he had not by admirable Foreſight (and better than ever *Dummy Campbel* knew. And yet he is R——ue enough in all Conſcience) provided future Thieves both for himſelf and Gallows.

About ſeven Years ago, as Mr. *Wild* was coming from t'other End of the Town, in a dark Winter's Night; he hir'd a Link-boy to light him Home. (He has rear'd up many a hopeful Babe of Grace, till he has brought him to the Gallows.) As they walk'd along, he began to diſcourſe with the Boy about his Way of living; *What a ſilly Son of a Bitch are you*, ſaith *Jonathan*, *to run about the Streets in a raſcally Manner, when you may live as much like a Gentleman, as any of theſe you carry a Link to—— you look like a brisk Hand; if you'll take my Advice, I'll quickly put you in a Way to mend your ragged Fortune.* Sir, I ſhould be glad to do any thing, for an honeſt Living. *Honeſt!* quoth *Jonathan*, *I don't know what you call Honeſt, but I'll tell you more of my Mind by and by.* With ſuch like Diſcourſe they paſs'd the Time away till they came to Mr. *Wild*'s Houſe who then very civilly invited his new Acquaintance to take a Dram, and ſo they ſet down together, and made merry

merry over a Quartern of *Holland's Geneva*, in which Time *Jonathan* finding the Boy to be of an apt *Mercurial* Genius, he ſoon ſtruck up a Bargain with him, and ſet him to work, telling him, whenever he came into any Trouble, to ſend to him and he would releaſe him; and then pulling out his Silver *Tipſtaff*, ſwore he had Authority from above to ſecure even a Juſtice of the Peace, if he did not do the King's Duty.

Jonathan told him, firſt of all he would try him in a low Degree, and if he behav'd well in that, the firſt Vacancy he ſhould riſe higher, ſo that his firſt Employment was picking of Pockets, in which the Boy quickly grew ſo expert, that his Maſter *Jonathan* ſoon thought him worthy of a higher Poſt, and accordingly furniſhed him with Inſtruments and Implements for Houſe-breaking, in which Condition he alſo diſcover'd an uncommon Capacity. In a Word, the Boy was preferr'd to the ultimate Degrees to which his Maſter could advance ſuch a promiſing Youth; for he was now equip'd with an able Horſe, and all Accoutrements neceſſary for a Gentleman Surveyor of his Majeſty's High Roads; and herein alſo he behav'd himſelf with an uncommon Magnaminity for a conſiderable Time, but at laſt one of his Companions being lopt, and he narrowly eſcaping himſelf, and the Fear of *Tyburn* being always before his Eyes, he relinquiſh'd his Occupation, and reſolving to live honeſtly for the Time to come, went over to *Ireland*, where he enter'd himſelf into a Gentleman's Service, and deſervedly gain'd the Love of his Maſter, and merited the Character of a faithful honeſt Servant. With whom he continued four or five Years, and might have remain'd longer, but having a great Deſire to ſee his own Country again, and believing all former Matters with Mr. *Wild* were forgotten and all over, he deſir'd of his Maſter a Letter of Recommendation

mendation to a Gentleman in *London*, which he gave him, and upon his Arrival the Gentleman took him into his Service, with whom he was very well reſpected, and alſo by the whole Family, but he had not lived there long, when going into *Clare-market* he unluckily happen'd to meet his old Friend *Jonathan Wild*, who accoſted him with, *Where the Devil have you been, you Runagate Son of a Bitch?* The young Fellow, you may imagine, was very much ſurpriz'd at this Recounter, and told Mr. *Wild*, that he had foreſeen the unhappy Conſequences of his former Courſe of Life, and therefore had now taken up a Reſolution to reform and amend his Life, which he had, he thank'd God done ever ſince he ſaw him, living honeſtly in Service. *Have ye ſo, and be damn'd to ye*, ſaith *Jonathan, why then depend upon't I'll tuck you up, if you don't pay me five Pounds to Morrow Morning.* Indeed Mr. *Wild*, ſaith the other, I don't know how to raiſe ſuch a Sum in ſo ſhort a Time if it were to ſave my Life, *Z——ds*, ſaith *Jonathan, why ſo it is, What! don't you know how to rob your Maſter, I'll warrant ye? Look ye, Sir, the Money I muſt have, but get it how you can.* But, *ſaith the young Fellow*, Mr. *Wild*, ſhould I procure this Money for you, will you never trouble me again upon ſuch an Account. *I won't promiſe you that*, ſaith *Jonathan, according as you behave your ſelf.* Well, Mr. *Wild*, I will do the beſt I can, *ſaith the Pupil*, and ſo went home to his Maſter's Houſe with a heavy Heart, who obſerving him to be very Melancholy all of a ſudden, was inquiſitive to know the Cauſe of it, and at laſt the young Man opened the whole Affair to him; which at firſt ſurpriz'd the Gentleman very much, but as he came well recommended to him, and had always behaved himſelf very well in his Service, and believing what he ſaid was

true,

true, and that he had entirely left off his former ill Practiſes, he reſolv'd to ſtand by him; and accordingly gave him five Pounds, and *bid him go with it to an Ale-houſe in the* Old-Bayly, *and ſend for* Jonathan *and pay him the Money, and I'll come into the ſame Houſe, ſaith he, as if by Chance, and in a very ſevere manner ſay, What Buſineſs have you together, and I'll engage he not only returns the Money, but thinks he is well off, and never trouble you any more.* Which happened accordingly, for *Jonathan* with all his Courage looked very ſheepiſh, when he ſaw the young Fellow's Maſter come in, and found he was betray'd, pretending *that he had kept the young Fellow from ſtarving, and that he had been hang'd long ago but for him.* But the Gentleman knowing better, told *Jonathan, he would make a Holiday with all his Heart to ſee him hang'd, for he did not believe there was a greater Rogue in the Kingdom,* and ſo contented himſelf with giving him two or three Licks with his Cane over his Shoulders, telling him he had a hanging Look, and he was ſure the D——l would one time or other have his due.

The *Mint* in *Southwark* was the Country where *Jonathan* beſt ſucceeded, and uſually went to raiſe Recruits, when his Army began to grow thin and weak, or ſometimes in the *Marſhalſea*, where he had commonly two or three handſome *Shaving-Files*, and *Diving-Files*, to fathom the Principles of unfortunate People into that Place, in both of which he often beat up for Volunteers, and moſt of his beſt Men came from thence.

He knew it was the Place where Tradeſmen who had met with Misfortunes firſt retired to, and that it was the conſtant Retreat of all thoſe, whom Idleneſs or Extravagance had render'd obnoxious to the Law.——He knew alſo, that People under thoſe Circumſtances, commonly carried a little Money with

with them at their firſt going over, which being ſoon ſpent, by Reaſon of their being out of Buſineſs to get more, they muſt of Conſequence be reduced to great Extremity and Want, till which Time he did not judge them rightly qualify'd for his Service. I once being let into the Secret of his Proceedings from his own Mouth, I ſhall faithfully relate to you the Methods and Ways he went to work with the Gentlemen Minters.

Firſt, he made himſelf acquainted with all the People who kept Publick Houſes, whether Taverns Ale-houſes, or the Venders of the Royal Liquor, commonly call'd *Gin*; from theſe he learn'd from time to time what People were newly come over, and if he lik'd the Deſcription of their Perſons, and the Account of their Circumſtances, he took ſome Opportunity of getting into Company with them; and *Jonathan* being facetious as well as frank and open in Converſation, made himſelf very agreeable to thoſe ſort of People call'd *merry Fellows*; Beſides, *Jonathan* always pretended to compaſſionate their Misfortunes, and to ſhew his Generoſity, would often treat them and make them drunk, and ſometimes perhaps lend them ſome ſmall Matters in their extream Neceſſities: by which Means he often ſo ingratiated himſelf into their Favour, that he has confeſs'd by half a Crown, he has ſometimes given or lent them, he has ſometimes got fifty, and ſometimes a hundred Pounds, which is certain, was laying out Money to the beſt Advantage. It was here that he firſt got acquainted with *John Hawkins*, who never was taken, until inform'd againſt by *Wilſon* for robbing the *Briſtol* Mail, although an additional Reward was offered by Proclamation of 100 *l.* for taking any Highwayman that ſhould commit a Robbery within five Miles of *London*, purely on the Account of the many Robberies committed by *Hawkins*, *Wilſon*, and *Sympſon*, in and about the

Streets and Roads leading to *London*, yet they kept ſafe, and divided their Booty very juſtly every Day with *Jonathan*, who knew to a Dite every Farthing they got; *Sympſon* indeed had once before been apprehended by *Wild*, but going before a Juſtice, and the Coachman opening the Door on *Sympſon*'s Side, he kick'd up his Heels and run away; and *Jonathan*, I warrant (much againſt his Will) was ſtop'd to pay the Coachman.

Jonathan came acquainted with a broken Cheeſemonger in the *Mint*, who being pleas'd with *Jonathan*'s Stories, was never well pleas'd out of his Company; which *Jonathan* obſerving, he repreſented to him the Miſeries of Poverty, ſwearing ſuch a likely young Dog as he ought to be damn'd to want good Cloaths and Money in his Pocket, when he might keep the beſt Company in Town, and if he had not Money one Day, he might have enough the next; but how can that be, ſaith the Cheeſmonger, *I have neither Horſe nor Arms*, nor any Money to buy them: But *Jonathan* told him where he might hire them, and gave him Money to do it, being cunning enough not to appear in it himſelf, ordering him to go on the *Epſom* Road for there was none of the *Pad* that Way; where he had not been long, before he ſaw a Man alone riding towards him, which prov'd to be a peaceable *Citizen*, whom he ventur'd to ſtop, and commanded him to deliver, who gave him nine *Guineas*, without any Trouble, which ſo overjoy'd the Cheeſemonger, that he thought it the beſt Maggot he ever took in his Life.

He was no ſooner return'd to the *Mint*, but *Jonathan* was ready to receive him, to whom he gave an Account of his Adventures, thinking he had behav'd very well for a young Beginner, which *Jonathan* approved of, and allow'd him two Guinea's out of the Nine, as a Mark of his Approbation

for

for himſelf; perhaps ſome may ſay, the young Fellow ought to have had at leaſt half; but if they would conſider, that he was now become a Slave to *Jonathan*, who had Power of Life and Death over him, they would think that he was very kind he did not hang him.

After this he continued every now and then to turn out by himſelf, conſtantly giving an Account to *Jonathan* of his Booty, who allow'd him ſome ſmall Matter out of it, which ſo diſcontented the young Fellow, that he reſolv'd to leave him, and ſet up for himſelf; which he had no ſooner done, but *Jonathan* rail'd at him, ſaying, Thus I am ſerv'd by a Parcel of Raſcals, when I have put Bread into their Mouths, but I'll be revenged and hang him, if there's never another Rogue in *England*.

Soon after, ſome that had been robb'd on the *Oxford* Road of their Watches and Pocket-Books, came to *Jonathan* to deſire to have them again, who looking into his Books, found that none under his Command had been upon that Road for a Month; from whence he concluded, it muſt needs be the deſerting *Cheeſe-monger*; upon which, full of Spleen, he ſets out well mounted towards *Oxford*, intending to renew his Acquaintance with his old Friend, who by all Reports, had pretty good Luck upon that Road, where he ſpent a Week in ſearching Inns and By-Roads to find him, but all in vain, till he met a Coach near *Oxford*, who fore warn'd him to go any further, they had been robb'd a Quarter of a Mile off by one Man, whom he concluded muſt be the *Spark* he wanted, ſets Spurs to his Horſe, and came to the End of the Lane, which he judg'd he muſt have ſtruck down to avoid being purſued; when doubling his Pace, he came in Sight of a Man in a grey Coat well mounted, which he judg'd muſt be

the Man he wanted, and therefore cocking one of his *Piſtols*, with which he was ſtuck round like the Man in the *Almanack*, he came up with him; who facing about found it to be *Jonathan*, and drawing his Piſtol bid him ſtand off, for he had done with him, who ſwore he was glad to ſee him, and that he would do him no harm, but begg'd they may go and drink together, and be Friends; but the Cheeſe-monger ſaid, *Jonathan* you have led me into a damn'd Trade, which I am weary off, and now I have got a little Money, I am reſolv'd to leave it off, and go abroad: *Jonathan* ſtill continued wheedling him till he drew nigh him, and then let fly a brace of Bullets in his Face, and after with his Hanger flew upon him like a *Tyger*, till he fell'd him down weltering in his Gore. Which done, he begun to plunder, taking out of his Pockets about fifty Guineas, with other rich Moveables, of which taking *Livery* and *Seſin*, according to the Law of Arms, he went to the next Juſtice of the Peace, leading the Horſe in his Hand in Triumph, and inform'd him that he was the famous *Wild* the *Thief-catcher*.

By which you may ſee, how *Jonathan* from time to time ſupply'd himſelf with Men; thoſe who was very couragious he made Horſemen of, others who were leſs brave, lay *Perdue* in ſome Ditch to ſurprize the heedleſs Traveller on Foot or Horſeback as it happen'd, being counted his beſt Men, having *two Strings to his Bow*; for he knew Mens Talents are different, and that he who had not Courage enough to bid a Man ſtand upon the Road, might nevertheleſs make an excellent Pick-pocket, taking care that no Man's Parts ſhould be miſapplied. He had another ſort of Gentry called the *Spruce-Priggs*, who being Perſons of Addreſs, were diſpatch'd to *Balls*, *Opera's*, and *Plays*, for which they were equip'd with handſome Equipages, and with Footmen in Liveries, who were

all

all Thieves as well as their Maſters, whom he ſometimes ſent to learn to dance under the famous Mr. *Lun*, who died at *Kingſton*, a dancing in his own Way, for a Robbery on the Highway, which *Jonathan* was uſed to ſay was a great Prejudice to thoſe ſorts of Gentry; amongſt whom there was ſome who appeared like *Mercers* and *Drapers*, always dreſs'd very clean in good Cloaths and Wigs, and clean Linnen, with Rings on their Fingers, who haunted *Sadler's Wells*, and all the *Hops* about Town; whoſe Buſineſs was to promote Country-Dances, and whilſt the Gentlemen were dancing, to carry of the Silver Swords, whilſt the Dancer was to ſtand his Ground, pretending to have loſt his Cane or Hat amongſt the reſt, making the greateſt Clamour of all; who ſometimes would take Lodgings of a Guinea or two a Week, when three or four of them appearing as Servants, would give out that their Lord and Maſter was juſt come from Abroad, to put himſelf in Mourning on Account of his Father's Death, and would not appear abroad till his Mourning was finiſh'd: Whereupon a Draper was ſent for, and Cloath brought for himſelf and Relations, who is generally recommended by the Landlord, as a very honeſt Man, and the Cloth being ſent in, there waited ſome of the Accomplices dreſs'd like Porters to receive the Cloth, and carry it to the Taylors. But if it happen'd that the Draper at the Delivery ſhould be urgent for his Money, they would give him a ſham Note upon a Banker, and whilſt he was gone to receive the Money, they move off, generally leaving an empty Trunk or two to pay the Lodging.

Jonathan at *Southwark-Fair* was obſerved one Night, to ſit out of Sight in the Corner of a Pit, and ask'd what he was doing there? See, ſaith he, that Beau in the Side-box, that Son of a Whore, has withdrawn himſelf from me this two Months, but

I'll be even with him, and if you have a Mind for a little Sport go to the *Bull-head* Tavern, and I'll divert you. Where we had not been long, but enters *Jonathan* and Sir *Foplin*, who began to D—n and to ſwear, Where had he been, and what was the Reaſon he never came near him? which put the *Beau* into a very great Fright, begging to forgive him, for he could not help it, having been in Goal in the Country, where he went upon a very *good Lay*, deſigning to marry a Woman of good Fortune, but miſcarrying, that he might not loſe his Labour, he *ſpoke with a Silver Tankard*, for which he was taken up; however he manag'd it ſo well, by the Aſſiſtance of *Nimble-Dick*, who went for his Servant, that nothing was found upon him, and ſo ſaith he, the *Pimps* diſcharg'd me, not out of Pity, but for want of Proof; but if you will let me go Mr. *Wild*, ſaith he, I am now upon a *Lay*, that I am ſure of getting a Gold Watch this Night, and I will bring it you in the Morning. Upon which, he paying for a Bottle of Wine, *Jonathan* let him go. And afterwards told us, *He was a pretty Fellow, and would live in any Part of the World; for*, ſaith he, *laſt Birthnight he went to Court as fine as a Lord, with a Deſign to pick the King's Pocket, but that he was interrupted by a Citizen's Wife, who would not let him get near enough, for the Fondneſs ſhe had of ſhewing herſelf to his M——ty, however ſhe paid for it, for ſhe loſt her repeating Watch by the Bargain.* For which Ingenuity, ſaith he, I ſaved the young Rogue's Life, thinking its pity ſuch a clever Fellow ſhould be cut off ſo ſoon. Which made the Company inquiſitive to know what he was brought up to; who told us he was a Chairman's Son, who liv'd with a Lady, who put the young Dog in a Livery; and ſhe being a Woman of Intrigue, the Boy in little time became a good *Pimp*, and

would

would have been a Page, had not the Lady died; After which, being out of Buſineſs, he had ſome Thoughts of getting to be a running Footman, when *Jonathan* took him under his Protection; ſaying, It was pity that ſuch Parts ſhould be buried and loſt to the World, and he did not doubt but to ſee him *preferred one Time or other*. Who they ſay is ſtill alive, being the Perſon who at the laſt Inſtallment took the Lady *M*————*n*'s Diamond-Buckle; who applying to *Jonathan* for Recovery of it, he ask'd her how much ſhe would give? She anſwered, twenty Guineas. Z—ds Madam, ſaith he, you offer nothing, I warrant you, it coſt the Gentleman that took it Forty, for his Coach, Equipage, and other Expences to *Windſor*.

Jonathan gave us to underſtand, that theſe Gentlemen Thieves often viſited the *Bath*, *Tunbridge*, and *Epſom*, not caring to ſtay very long in one Place, where they always thruſt themſelves into the beſt Company; whoſe Buſineſs is to get Watches and Snuff-boxes, which if they ſhould be miſs'd whilſt they are in the Room, the very Figure they make carries them off without being ſuſpected. But for fear of Accidents, there is always a Footman, not only for State, but for Uſe; who to prevent the Conſequences of a Search, receives the Booty from the Maſter as ſoon as the Work is done, and conveys it away. Whoſe Buſineſs is alſo to inſinuate himſelf into the Acquaintance of all Gentlemen's Servants to learn what Plate they bring to Town, when they go away, and how attended, and alſo to make Love to Servant Maids who live in good Families; by which means they may not only learn where all the Plate, and other rich Moveables are kept; but if the Damſel ſhould happen to be captivated with Mr. *John*, or Mr. *Thomas*, or whatever Name he

takes, ſhe may be wrought upon to let him in at Night, and ſo a good Prize may be got without any Danger.

At one time the ſtealing the Shop-keepers Accompt-Books, was grown a conſiderable Branch of Trade, of which *Jonathan* gave us one Inſtance worth relating. A Merchant, ſaith *Jonathan*, a conſiderable Dealer in Hops in *Thames-ſtreet*, had his Books ſtole, who applying to me offered ten Guineas to have them reſtored. The *Prigs*, ſaith he, where in my *Ken* that *nimbed* out of his *Swag*: that is, the Thieves were then in his Houſe, that ſtole them out of his Shop; and *Jonathan* went into the Room where they were, and made the Report, but they ſetting in Council, with two or three of the ſame Squadron, tho' not in that Detachment, declar'd they thought the Books were really worth twenty to return to the Owner, which *Jonathan* notified to the Merchant; but in ſhort, the Agreement was fifteen; however there aroſe a Diſpute about the Delivery; *Jonathan* propoſed that he ſhould leave the Money behind him, and the Books be brought to his Houſe, which the Merchant ſcrupling; *Jonathan* ſaid to him, *Sir, do you queſtion my Honour, I ſcorn to do an ill thing by any Man. No, Sir.*, anſwered he, *by no Means*, and then readily laid down the Money and went his way; and before he had got home himſelf, the Books were at his Houſe, which is a plain Proof how far *Jonathan's Honour was to be depended upon.*

Within three Weeks, the ſame Gentleman came to *Jonathan's* Houſe upon the very ſame Buſineſs, for his Shop-books were gone again, and he would fain have had five Guineas abated this time, becauſe of his having been a Cuſtomer before; but *Jonathan* ſaid, It was nothing to him, if the Gentlemen will take five Shillings, I ſhall agree to it, what I do is to ſerve you; ſo in ſhort he paid

down

down his Money like a fair Dealer, and was going Home as before, but *Jonathan* called him back, and asked him how, and in what Part of the Shop his Compting-houſe was built? He told him it was next the Street, and the Door opened within-ſide, behind the Compter. Why, ſaith *Jonathan*, you are quite wrong, you'll never keep your Books if that be the Caſe: But I'll come to Morrow my ſelf and ſee it, and then I'll adviſe what's proper to be done.

The next Day *Jonathan* comes to the Hop-Merchant in *Thames-ſtreet*, the Books having been ſent home before and meets with the Merchant at home, where he takes a Survey of the whole Affair, and adviſes the Old Compting-houſe to be pulled down, and a new one to be built at the further End of the Shop, and to break out a Sky-light *over-head* which he ſaid would be the only Contrivance to make all ſafe. Which was done according to *Jonathan*'s Model. And yet hardly a Month happened before it was again attacked with the like Succeſs, and coſt him the ſame Sum over again, to redeem it out of *Jonathan*'s Purgatory, which they did after this manner: A Perſon well dreſs'd in a Gentleman's Habit, watched his Opportunity and came into the Shop, and asked if M——was at home? Whereupon he was told that he himſelf was the Perſon. Sir, ſaith he, I have two or three Words to ſpeak to you in private, and ſo takes him towards his Compting-houſe, where the Hop-Merchant goes in firſt, expecting the Gentleman to tell him his Buſineſs, but inſtead of that, he only reaches out his Hand to the Desk, on which the Books lay, and takes them away, and at the ſame Inſtant ſhuts too the Door, which he locks upon the Hop-dealer, and ſo walks off without being diſturbed.

But there being an Act paſſed in the Reign of the late King *William*, making it Felony to buy or receive any ſtolen Goods knowing them to be ſtolen, and or two bold People having ſuffered upon that Account, the Receiving Trade was ſpoiled all at once, and when the poor Adventurer had at the Hazard of his Neck gotten any Purchaſe, he muſt run all that Hazard over-again to turn it into Money.

It is true, ſometime after, the Temptation being ſtrong, and the Profits great, there were Perſons frequently found that did help the Adventurers and took off their Goods, but then the Thief got ſo ſmall a Share, that the Encouragement was very little, and had it continued ſo, the Thieving Trade might have been in Danger of being loſt: For the Receivers running ſo great a Hazard, they got all the Profit to themſelves. And the poor Shop-lifters or Houſe breakers who ventured his Neck for them, was glad to part with Things of the greateſt Value for a Trifle.

But *Jonathan* found out a better Way to encourage the Trade, and to make it better for Buyer and Seller. One Method was when a Purchaſe was made, he enquired where it was ſtolen, and at whoſe Houſe, and who it was that loſt them, which having learn'd, he then order'd the Thieves to carry Things ſtolen to ſuch and ſuch Places, always avoiding meddling with them himſelf, or bringing himſelf under the Penalty of any Law or Act of Parliament, Then he ſent a Man to inform the Perſon robbed, that *if they would come down handſomely* and could diſcover the Things they had loſt, he believed he could help them to them again, for there was a Parcel of ſtolen Goods, ſtopp'd by an honeſt Broker, which if they did belong to them they might have them again for a ſmall Expence.

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Any Body may believe that the People who were robbed, were glad to have their Things, and readily gave an Account of what they had loſt, and were alſo thankful to Perſons that brought the News of them, but when they came for them, they were told they were ſtopt among other Goods ſtolen from other People, and therefore they hoped they would take no more than their own, they could diſcover to whom the other Part belong'd, which the Loſer promiſing he would not, the Things were reſtor'd, and abundance of Thanks return'd to *Jonathan*, or Mrs. *Milliner* for their Honeſty, who told them they got nothing for it themſelves, but the Satisfaction of helping them to their Goods again, which were taken by a Company of Rogues, declaring they were ſorry for their Expences, and much more, that they had not the good Luck to find the Rogues that took them, but they would endeavour to do it as ſoon as poſſible, and then give them Notice.

On the other hand *Jonathan* play'd his Part with the Thief as beneficial alſo, pretending to reprove him for his Villainy, would threaten to bring him to Juſtice if he did not reſtore the Goods without any *Præmium*, and make them lodge them as they directed, which if refus'd, he will cauſe the Thief to be taken with the Goods upon him, and to get a Reward for the Diſcovery and taking of him, and ſo bring the poor Wretch to the Gallows, becauſe he could not make his Market of him to his Mind, which over a jolly Bowl of Punch he was uſed to brag of as a Piece of Service to the Publick, which none but himſelf could manage: But whether it was ſo or not, I think by the Sequel of his Life, is eaſily determin'd However, at *Newgate* I believe they may think it an honeſt Way of getting Money, but all others will look upon it as an Encouragement to Rogues, who knew before hand how to get

Money

Money by it, if they would not ſubmit to *Jonathan*'s Demands.

This Trade he carried on a long time, and had he gone no further, I queſtion whether it had been in any Body's Power to have hurt him to the laſt, notwithſtanding the late Act, which ſeemed to be made on purpoſe againſt *Jonathan*. But he knew no Bounds to his Gains, and therefore fear'd no Reſtraint of Laws, which Practice of giving People Notice of their Goods that were ſtolen, became at laſt ſo publick, that it produced another as fooliſh; for when any Perſon was robb'd, he always publiſh'd in one of our *News Papers*, the Particulars of the Things loſt, with the Promiſe of a Reward to thoſe who ſhould diſcover them, which the Loſers thought might occaſion a Diſcovery either by the Thieves betraying one another, or by directing Buyers to ſtop them, if they came to be pawn'd or ſold, but this was ineffectual, for it was only giving Caution to the Thief, not to offer any thing, for he was ſure to be ſtopt as well as the Goods, and therefore the Thief carried his Prize to *Jonathan Wild*, who enquiring where the Robbery was committed, and whoſe the Goods were, then made Application to the Loſer firſt, ſaying, he heard of the Robbery by meer Chance, which was ſo plauſible a Story, and the People being glad of their Things again, made no further Enquiry after it.

But if it happen'd they were too inquiſitive, the Party ſent, ſeem'd to take it ill, and ſaid, Sir, I only came to ſerve you, if you think any otherwiſe, I muſt tell you, you are miſtaken, I can give a very good Account of my ſelf to you or any Body elſe, *I only came to tell you that ſome Goods being offered to Sale by a* ſuſpected Perſon, the Man to whom they were offered had the Honeſty to ſtop them and to give you Notice of it; if you have any thing further to ſay to me about the Thieves, I have nothing

thing to ſay to you, but to let you know my Name is ſo and ſo, and I live in ſuch a Place, where I am to be found at any Hour, and ſo offering to go away in a Huff, they preſently bring them to a better Temper, and make them glad to treat with them upon their own Terms.

It muſt be own'd, *Jonathan* play'd a ſure Game in all this, and therefore it is not to be wonder'd at, that he went on for ſo many Years with Succeſs, by which for ſome time, he requir'd the Reputation of a very honeſt Man, till his good Luck harden'd him to put on a Face of publick Services in it, and openly to profeſs a Correſpondence amongſt the Thieves, by which at length his Houſe became an Office of Intelligence for loſt Goods. Yet even this did not laſt long, which he perceiving, was oblig'd every now and then to give up one or two of his Clients to the Gallows to ſupport his ſinking Reputation, when he never fail'd to publiſh, how uſeful a Man he was to the Publick; for all who would not ſubmit their Purchaſe to his Diſpoſal, and had committed the Secret of the Fact to him, would not accept of his Terms, or in any wiſe contradicted him, he would immediately cauſe to be apprehended, knowing their Haunts; and none ſo vigilant in ſuch Caſes as *Jonathan*, who had his Ways and Means to bring in others of the Gang to confeſs, that they might bring in the Perſons ſo intended to be given up to Juſtice. which he manag'd with ſo much Cunning, that he got a general Applauſe for it, as a proper Man to bring Rogues to Juſtice and detect their Villanies.

'Tis certain, that he ſacrificed a great many Mens Lives to his Ambition and Intereſt every Year, which ſo exaſperated the Thieves againſt him, that, he went always in Danger of his Life; for altho' he brought many a Criminal to a juſt Condemnation, yet a great many of them he had firſt brought up

in

in that wicked Way, and then hanged them as ſoon as they had learn'd their Buſineſs, which the Thieves perceiving, made them neglect their Correſpondence with him, whom he purſued with the greater Fury; wherever he could exert his Power withour Fear of being touch'd himſelf, as in the Caſe of *Jack Shepherd*, *Blewskin*, *&c.* in taking, retaking, and proſecuting of whom, he was very officious, when at the ſame time they exclaim againſt him as the Encourager of their Villanies, and the chief Inſtrument of ſetting them upon ſuch evil Courſes at firſt, for which *Blake* alias *Bleueskin* bid fair of giving *Jonathan* his *Quietus*, in the very Face of Juſtice, and well had it been for him if he had; for *Jonathan*'s Fate was to die with more Infamy, than he would have gone off the Stage of this World with, if he had died in his Shoes, and been ſent a packing before.

But he that as it will, it is plain he had two very fair Pretences for what he did; namely, the Publick Good in taking and apprehending the moſt notorious Criminals, as alſo the procuring and reſtoring the Goods again to the right Owners, which never could have been done ſo well as *Jonathan* did, but by an Intimacy and Familiarity amongſt the ſeveral Gangs of Thieves, who never could have been maintain'd ſo long, without really being a Party with them in the very Facts, which *Jonathan* was often told of as well by his Friends as by his Enemies, but *Jonathan* always deny'd it, and on the contrary, inſiſted not only on his Innocence, but on his Merit, pretending he only made uſe of their Acquaintance to perſuade them to reſtore the Goods again to the People who had loſt them, behaving himſelf ſo juſtly between both Parties as to capitulate on Terms agreeable to the Rogue and his Chap, and get ſomething by it himſelf. Which he inſiſted on to the laſt, as not only very honeſt,

but

but very ſerviceable, ſaying, that whatever he took on either Side, was all one as a Solicitor takes his Fee, on Conſideration from both Parties, for honeſtly putting an End to a Law-ſuit, and bringing the contending Parties in a friendly Accommodation. And indeed had he not exceeded this, I cannot ſay, but he might have been in the Right of it. But he acted quite different, and in another manner, placing himſelf in the Middle between the Law and the Offender, as it were commuting the Felony, and making a kind of Compoſition where the Fact was puniſhable, which none but the Supream Magiſtrate has Power to anticipate; however it muſt be allowed *Jonathan* ſteer'd among the Rocks and dangerous Shoals, like a bold Pilot, always getting over Difficulties in a very ſurprizing manner, which no Man ever did the like before, and I believe never will again: But this even he could never have done, had not the Government given Encouragement to have Criminals detected and brought to Juſtice, as alſo the Willingneſs of the Perſons robbed to have their Things again. Which ſeem'd to give *Jonathan* a ſort of an Authority to do as he did. But it is certain he had no Authority to draw poor Fellows firſt into the Crime, that he might afterwards take a Reward from the Government for apprehending them, which is the nice Turn of *Jonathan*'s Caſe, and which turn'd him off the Stage at long run.

Jonathan thus run ſmoothly on in a ſucceſsful way of Buſineſs above ten Years, in which Time no doubt but he got a great deal of Money, altho' not ſo publickly taken notice of as of late. And had he been content with that private Way of living, he might have grown rich and been ſtill alive, but he was of too enterprizing a Genious not to improve his Talant that he was intruſted with by his firſt Inſtructor.

About

About this Time he marry'd one *Elizabeth Man, his others* being ſtill alive, who was indeed a Lady of Pleaſure, but a Woman of Wit and Docibility, whom he loved above any he had before, and took her home to his Houſe, where ſhe became a true Penitent, if a Man may take *Jonathan*'s Word, and turn'd Roman-Catholick in order to receive Abſolution from her Father-Confeſſor; but he prov'd a Wag of the Town, and told her he would ſend them both to Heaven if ſhe would do ſuch Penance as he ordered, which ſhe poor Soul readily comply'd with, and ſo *Jonathan* between them was made a Cuckold for the Good of his Soul, which Kindneſs *Jonathan* never forgot as long as ſhe liv'd, and when ſhe died had her buried near to *Obadiah Walker* in *Pancraſs* Church-Yard; and at his Death he deſired to be buried near her, which his Friends took Care to ſee perform'd about two a Clock the next Morning after he was hang'd; but the unruly Mob would not ſuffer his Body to be quiet there long before they open'd the Grave, and carried him the D——l knows where.

I remember I went once with a Friend of mine to *Jonathan*'s, who having depoſited his Crown, was ask'd with a very grave Air, where the Things where loſt, which being told, he turn'd about and ſmil'd at once of his Accomplices, ſaying, who can this be, why all our People are gone down to *Briſtol Fair? Quilt Arnold* pawſing a little ſaid, *I'll be hang'd if it is not* Lynn, *I think I ſaw him in the Street yeſterday*; *Did you ſo*, ſaith *Jonathan, then 'tis that Rogue I warrant you*; *Well Sir*, ſaith he, *you ſhall know more of it if you let me ſee you in a Day or two*, when coming according to Appointment, he told him he could not find the young Dog, and he belived he was gone after the reſt to the Fair, but as ſoon as he was come up he did not queſtion but to help him to his Silver-hilted Sword again when the Fair was over.

over. My Friend went again and again, but could hear nothing of his Sword, which *Jonathan* at laſt told him, the Rogue had ſold it upon the Road to take Money on to carry him down, and that there was no finding the Thief, or the Sword; which my Friend telling to another Acquaintance, he had a Mind to ſee *Jonathan*, and went a little after to his Houſe, telling for Excuſe, that he had met with a Whore in *Fleetſtreet*, with whom he went into a Tavern to drink, and ſhe pick'd his Pocket of a Gold Watch. Upon which *Jonathan* brought out his Book, and deſired him to write down the Particulars he very really did, but not giving him his Fee of a Crown as uſual, he told him, he was afraid he could do him no Service; which the Gentleman ſaid, he did not expect, for he only came out of Curioſity to ſee ſuch a Rogue as he was, and he thought he deſerved hanging more than any of the Thieves that belongs to him; which ſo provoked *Jonathan*, that he called all his *Myrmedons* about him, and ſwore that the Gentleman was come to rob him, which made the Gentleman glad to get off with a whole Skin, reſolving never to put Tricks upon Rogues again.

The next Day *Jonathan* loſt one of his beſt Hands, and had the Impudence to ſwear the Gentleman had *Kidnap'd* the likelieſt Man he had, as he found by his Books, having lately minuted down a Gold-Watch, a Pair of Diamond-Earings, a Parcel of fine Lace, with ſeveral other Things which this Fellow had made, and yet he had miſſed ſeveral Muſters, and neither *Jonathan* nor any of his People, could hear what was become of him for a Quarter of a Year, only ſuch and ſuch Things were *ſpoke with*, which he knew muſt be either the Devil or this Raſcal; which he was reſolved to take off for his Ingratitude as he called it, one way or other. Whereupon *Jonathan* was every Day upon the Hunt after him,

him, but he forſaking all the Profeſſion, it was difficult to find him out, but at length he got an Information where he was, but by what Means is uncertain, upon which he got my Lord Chief Juſtice's Warrant and took two or three Conſtables along with him, to beſet the Houſe about four in the Morning, which was a Publick-houſe in *Biſhopſgate-ſtreet*, whom he headed with a Piſtol in his Hand, and up Stairs he goes into his Room, tho' not ſo ſilently but the young Fellow heard him upon the Stairs, and getting up, put on his Breeches and Shoes, by which time *Jonathan* had wrench'd open the Door, at the Sight of whom the young Fellow gave a Spring out of the Window, which was a Story-high, and fell down into a little Yard, and from thence got over a Wall into the Street, and ran croſs the Way into a Linen-draper's Houſe, whoſe Door happen'd to ſtand open, where the Servants were waſhing below Stairs, of whom the Fellow begg'd for Protection, ſaying, he was purſued by Bayliffs, and if they ſhould take him he ſhould be inevitably ruin'd and undone; which the credulous Women hearing, they pitied the poor Man's Caſe, and told him he ſhould ſtay with them if he pleaſed, till the Blood-ſucking Villains were gone. In the mean time *Jonathan* thought the Devil was in the Fellow to fly out of the Windows in ſuch a manner, and what was worſe, did not know which way to follow him, for making as much haſte as he could down Stairs, they could not ſee the leaſt Shadow of him, neither in the Yard nor in the Street, which very much ſurprized him. But *Jonathan* ſtood peering about, being ſatisfied he muſt have taken Refuge in ſome Houſe or other near the Place, when at laſt he ſpy'd a Linen-draper's Shop open, unto which he goes, and acquainted the Gentleman with what had happen'd, ſaying, he was ſure the Rogue could be no where but in his Houſe, he anſwer'd, he was certain he had no ſuch Perſon, and that he had not been

from

from the Shop above a Minute, Sir, ſaith *Jonathan*, *that muſt be the very time he ſlipt in, give me leave to ſearch for him*, which being granted, he went all over the Houſe, and at laſt into the Waſh-houſe, where the Women for a good while deny'd they ſaw any ſuch Perſon; till being inform'd he was no Debtor, but a Highway-man and a Houſe-breaker, they confeſs'd and told Mr. *Wild*, the Man he look'd for was in the Coal-hole under the Stairs, whereupon *Jonathan* calls all his *Myrmidons* about him, and deſires the Women to lend him a Candle, with which he goes into the Coal-hole, but he could find no Highway-man there, and then he ſearches round the Cellar, Kitchen, and in ſhort every Place he could think of, where he thought a Man could be conceal'd, and no Body was to be ſeen, which made *Jonathan* very melancholy, ſwearing he never was ſo foil'd in his Life before, really believing he was gone off, and that the Maſter of the Houſe had play'd a Trick with him; for *Jonathan* was uſed to be ſo ſerv'd ſometimes. He came up and told the Maſter there was no Body there, at which, the Waſher-women were frightened out of their Wits, believing they had ſeen a Spirit, and every one look'd very fooliſh upon one another, till the Linen-draper gave them to underſtand, that if any Man went down Stairs, he muſt be there ſtill, for he was ſure no Body had come up from thence, he having been in the Shop ever ſince, perſuading them to go down again and look into all the Waſhing-tubs, and ſearch every where, ſaying, there was no other Way for him to go out but up theſe Stairs, and ſo into the Street.

Jonathan was hard of Belief, but however to ſatisfy the Linen-Draper's Curioſity, who, by the way, was a great Enemy to Thieves, as moſt of his Profeſſion are, went down with the Conſtables and his *Guard de Corps*, when turning up one of the Tubs as the Linen Draper had order'd them, they found

poor

poor *Culprit* lye as close as an Owl in an Ivy-Bush. At the Sight of whom, *Jonathan* fell into a mighty Rage, calling him all the Rogues in the Kingdom, *You treacherous Dog*, said he, *where are the Diamond Ear-Rings and Gold Watch you stole at such a Place, G——D——n me, you Villain, you cheating Son of a Whore, I'll hang you if there's never another Rogue in* England, *you vile Rascal.* By which Expressions, you might observe, that *Jonathan* was arriv'd to such a Pitch of Arrogance at that time, that he assum'd in himself the Power of Life and Death, as much as if he had been the sole Dispenser of the Law, which indeed he was in a great Measure as he imagined; for young *Culprit* had found out *Jonathan*'s Blind-side, and knew how to soften his obdurate Heart, notwithstanding all his Oaths and Imprecations, and therefore calling him aside, he whisper'd him in the Ear, and bid him go up to his Lodgings, and look behind the Head of the Bed, and he should find something that will soon make him of another Mind; which *Jonathan* did, telling the People of the House, he must go up Stairs for the Fellow's Clothes, which he brought down along with him, and in a Hole which the Thief directed him to, he found three Watches, one Gold and the other two Silver, Rings, and other Things of Value, which he put into his own Pocket, to prevent the Right Owners ever having them again, and then giving the Token to the Prisoner that he was well-pleased, he told the Constable, he had been searching all over his Lodgings, and could find nothing; but however the sad Dog should go before a Justice, and be hang'd if possible, who taking him before a Justice, he was committed on Suspicion of Felony; and the next Sessions, no Body appearing against him, he was discharged.

The Discretion that *Jonathan* always had to distinguish between Right and Wrong in his own Favour

Favour, rendered him famous all over *London*, and he made uſe of ſeveral little Arts to make himſelf appear a Man of Intereſt in diſtant Parts of the Kingdom, always keeping a good Correſpondence with the Ordinary, who never failed in any of his Papers of ſpeaking handſomely of Mr. *Wild*'s Service; and the better to deceive that Reverend Gentleman, he would often-times go to Prayers with him, and never miſſed hearing the Condemn'd Sermon, when *Jonathan* was very often obſerved to cry; but all this was Grimace, for his real Deſign was to know what Confeſſion the Priſoners made, and that he might be ſure that nothing ſhould be done to his Diſadvantage, he would put Words into the Ordinary's Mouth, what he ſhould ask them, which was uſually Things that they knew nothing of, and ſo it very often happened, that theſe Rogues in *Grain*, were ſet down *Red-letter'd Saints*. By which Artifices his Houſe was handſomely furniſh'd with Plate, and every thing anſwerable, fit to entertain any Perſon of Quality, who often came to viſit him upon the Account. And when Madam *Wild* appear'd abroad, ſhe always took the Wall of her Neighbours, with a Footman at her Arſe, with a fine laced Livery.

Which Grandeur on a ſudden made ſeveral Perſons look upon him with Envy, and ſome who fancied they knew as much Roguery as himſelf, attempted to oppoſe him, in his Lawful Calling, the Principal were one *Felt*——*n*, a ſuperannuated Thief, *Riddleſd*——*n*, an Attorney and Thief, whoſe chief Merit for the Support of his Pretenſions to this Practice, was his having ſacrilegiouſly and felonioufly broke open the Royal Chapel at *Whitehall*, who ſtole thence the Communion-plate.

However none of them all were able to give *Jonathan* any Uneaſineſs; on the contrary, he found Means ſoon after to get *Reddleſd*——*n* tranſported for not complying with the Conditions of his Par-

don,

don, and to make *Felt——n* run mad, and the City-Marſhal long before having given up his Pretenſions, *Jonathan* reigned abſolute Lord and Maſter, *Thief Catcher General* over all the Whores and Rogues about Town.

A Lady applying to Mr. *Wild* for a Gold Watch with Trinkets, and ſome Diamonds about the Watch, ſhe offer'd 30 Pounds to have them again; which handſome Propoſal at firſt, made *Jonathan* deſire the Lady to ſit down and drink a Diſh of Tea with his Wife, and he would tell her more. When ſhe had given him an Account when and where they were loſt, who being told at St. *Ann's* Church, *Jonathan* pauſes a While, and calls up a Servant, and asked aloud, Where was *Moll King* laſt *Sunday?* About *Weſtminſter*, ſays the Man, but the *B——ch* would not tell where. Was ſhe *Crank*, ſaith Mr. *Wild?* I don't know, ſaith the Fellow. And then turning to the Lady, he ſays, Madam, I fancy I ſhall be able to ſerve you, and perhaps for leſs Money than your Ladyſhip ſpeaks of. If it be *Moll King*, the Woman I mean, whom I believe it is, for ſhe is a ſharp Jade at that ſort of Work, I will have her ſafe before Morning.

O Sir, ſaith the *Lady*, don't take her up, I aſſure you, I'll rather loſe my Watch than have any poor Wretch hang'd for me.

Why, ſaith *Jonathan*, we can do nothing with her, Madam, but by threatening. We muſt not make a Bargain with her, that would be to compound Felony; I ſhall perſuade her to reſtore your Watch and ask your Pardon, will that do

Lady. I don't know whether that will be ſafe, if ſhe will ſend it me, I'll forgive her without asking Pardon.

Wild. Very kind indeed; Well then will you take it, and give the Porter that brings it 20 Guineas,

neas, if you ſhall think fit, not as I oblige you to it?

Lady. Whatever you ſay Mr. *Wild.*

Wild. If I may have the Honour to ſee your Ladyſhip again.

Lady. Will it not do if I ſend any Body?

Wild. No, Madam, People that deal in our Way don't care for Witneſſes.

Lady. Well, well, that's true, I'll come my ſelf, What Day would you have me come?

Wild. On *Thurſday* Madam.

Lady. Well Mr. *Wild*, What muſt I do! What will ſatisfy you for your Trouble?

Wild. It is time enough, Madam, to ſpeak of that, when I am ſure I can do you any Service.

Lady. Well Mr. *Wild*, I'll come furniſh'd to pay my Reſpects to you.

Wild. Madam, your moſt obedient Servant.

The Lady came again on *Thurſday*, to whom Mr. *Wild* appeared in his Callicoe Gown, and received her with a ſmiling Look, ſaying, he was very glad to be able to ſay, that he believes he ſhall ſerve her. That it was the very Woman he ſuſpected, but the Jade had pawn'd the Watch for ſome Money, but it was but little, and he was glad ſhe had.

Lady. Why, Mr. *Wild.*

Wild. Becauſe, Madam, if ſhe had kept it all this while, it would be ten to one but ſhe had broke ſomething about it, or done it ſome Miſchief.

Lady. That's true indeed, pray, what has ſhe pawn'd it for.

Wild. Not much, Madam, ſhe has got but ten Guineas upon it yet.

Lady. Well, Mr. *Wild*, what muſt be done?

Wild. Why Madam, if the People that have it bring it ſafe and ſound to your Ladyſhip, will you give

give me your Honour that you will ask no Queſtions, or ſtop the Perſon that comes with it.

Lady. I promiſe you upon my Word, I ſhall not.

Wild. The Man that brings it may be a poor innocent Fellow, that new nothing of it.

Lady. Well, he ſhall have no Harm from me.

Wild. Then I believe your Ladyſhip might hear ſomething of it to Night.

Lady. And what muſt I give him?

Wild. I don't yet know, Madam, but I'll bring them as low as I can, not above twenty Guineas to be ſure, Madam.

Lady. That is very kind indeed: Well, Mr. *Wild*, then I'll make it up to you (*ſo the Lady pulled out her Purſe to give him ſome Money.*)

Wild. No, Madam, not a Farthing: Let me ſee if I can ſerve you firſt.

Lady. Well, then I muſt come again?

Wild. I believe not, 'tis ten to one but the *Jade* will be here preſently; and a little after, being called out, he comes in again puffing; Madam, ſaith he, if your Coachman drives gently on towards *Ludgate*, for the Whores do not love to go the other Way, I believe you will have your Watch.

Lady. Very well, Mr. *Wild*, I underſtand you, upon which a *Ticket-Porter* comes up to the Coach-ſide, whom the Lady ſeeing, enquires what he wants, who delivers her the Watch and Trinkets, with a Note wherein is written *Eighteen Guineas*, which the Lady willingly gives him, and a half Guinea for himſelf, and then returning to Mr. *Wild*'s ſhe gives him ten Guineas for his Pains; which he at firſt modeſtly refuſes, but at the Lady's Importunity takes it, but not on Account of the Watch, but for his Trouble; when, at the ſame time, he came in Snacks with the Thief.

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It would be endleſs to give a full Account of the many Cheats of this kind for about 16 Years, as alſo of the poor Souls he has drawn in to be ſubſervient to his Directions, and at length hang'd them to ſecure his Intereſt with the Court. But all this would not do. *Jonathan* had long been ſo notorious, that the Publick begun to be juſtly alarm'd at it, and an Act of Parliament was paſſed to make it Felony to take or receive any Reward for ſtolen Goods knowing them to be ſtolen, which was directly aimed at *Jonathan*, which altho' he was adviſed of, yet it was like talking of Pity to a *Huſſar*, for he not only took Rewards for returning Goods ſtolen, but even directed the ſtealing of them, acting the Part of a Thief and a Receiver at the ſame Time.

If ever *Jonathan* help'd any Man to Buſineſs, he endeavoured to make Thieves of them, which he practiſed principally upon young Men or Women, who wander'd about in Want and Beggary, many of whom he has picked up in the Streets under a Pretence of Charity, and a Willingneſs to do them good, which has been to no other End, than to breed them up to Thieving, and bring them to the Gallows. And what is worſe, Children thus ſtrouling about the Streets in Miſery and Poverty, whom he has taken in on Pretence of providing for them, which has been in Fact to make them Rogues, and what is *more horrid*, ſeveral of thoſe his own *forſter Children*, whom he has cauſed afterwards to be apprehended and hanged, for the very Crimes he firſt taught them to commit.

He frequently drew out Detachments of ſome of his cleverest Fellows, whom he ſent out upon Command to the Country Fairs, with whom he generally marched out himſelf, which was abſolutely neceſſary, for the Buſineſs could not be well carried on with-

out him; for the People seeing *Jonathan* amongst them, thought they were very secure, because he gave out, that he came to take some Rogue whom he suspected to be there. And the People fancied his Presence frightened away the Thieves, and to countenance this Belief, he went doubly and trebly armed, and often wore Armour under his Cloaths, which he took care to shew in all Companies, being attended by three or four terrible looking Fellows, by way of *Guard de Corps*, as if all the Thieves in *England* had vowed to sacrifice him; which gave him an Opportunity of protecting and carrying off the Booty, which was made in these Fairs; And if any of his Party was in Danger of being taken, these *Myrmidons* who passed for his Body Guard, were to run into the Crowd, and under Pretence of assisting the People were to shuffle off, and favour the Escape of the Rogues in the Crowd.

In short, his Business at all times was to put a false Gloss upon Things, and to make *Fools* of Mankind, as he was used to brag amongst his Companions; for when he had a Mind to be merry, and drink his Bottle, and to laugh at the World, he talked with too much Freedom of himself, and his own Management, and not without some Vanity, as appears by the following Relation of a certain Tradesman who was a very honest Man, but had some Knowledge of *Jonathan*, as indeed most People had, who going into a Tavern, where he expected to meet some Company, by Mistake went into a Room, where *Jonathan* was drinking with some merry Fellows; whom *Jonathan* seeing, he desired him to set down and take a Glass with them, which the Tradesman at first refused to do, being a little angry with *Jonathan*, for a Disrespect at a Country-Fair about a Week before, when asking *Jo-*

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nathan how he did, *Jonathan* damn'd him, and bid him not trouble him with impertinent Queſtions, therefore the Tradeſman before he ſet down deſired to know the Reaſon, why *Jonathan* ſnapt him up in that rude uncivil manner, when he had ſpoke to him ſo civilly? *Z——ds*, ſaith *Jonathan*, *you diſturb me in my Buſineſs, for I had at that time twenty pair of Hands at Work.* Which I believe he had, for as ſome of our News Papers have obſerv'd, he kept in pay many Artiſts for the altering of Watches and Rings, as alſo a kind of *Magazine* of *Armoury* of all kinds of Inſtruments uſed in Thievery, as Picklocks, Files, Saws, and Engines for forcing Doors and Windows, which he made no Secret of ſhewing to every Company; pretending he found them upon ſuch and ſuch Houſe-breakers, whom he had taken and convicted; though it is certain he did not ſuffer them to grow ruſty for want of uſe: For he never went into any Houſe, but like an Engineer at a Fort, he would view all about it, to ſee on which Side it might be attacked with the moſt Advantage, which he never failed of finding out, having not only the Theory, but the Practice in Perfection, knowing his Buſineſs much better than to pretend to let any of his Men lay Siege to a Fortification, and not take it by Storm, if it would not ſurrender upon Diſcretion.

I forgot to tell you, after the Act of Parliament was made, People were at a Loſs to know what *Jonathan* would do, believing this new Act had quite cut him out of his former Buſineſs; and indeed *Jonathan* himſelf for ſometime was at a ſtand; but at laſt upon mature Deliberation to avoid the Clutches of the Law, he gave out that he was about to ſet up a new Project, alias *Bubble*, and to open an Office for taking in Subſcriptions for inſuring againſt Robberies, which would certainly have been of Service; for *Jonathan* either by himſelf or

his Creatures being concerned in all Robberies, would certainly have prevented theſe Houſes being robbed, on which he had put his Mark; for which he pretended to ſettle a ſufficient Fund, and give good Security for Performance of Articles. Sometimes ſhewing a Manuſcript Paper of Propoſals, and conſulting People whom he ſuppoſed to have any Underſtanding in thoſe Affairs, extolling the great Uſe and Advantage ſuch a Project would be to the Publick, not doubting he ſaid, but all trading People as well as Quality, who kept Plate and Money in their Houſes, would for their own Sake encourage ſo uſeful an Undertaking, bragging that it was no *South-Sea-Bubble*, and that he could fairly make a good Fortune by it.

Whether he did this only to amuſe People and to hinder them from enquiring any further into his Affairs; for whether he was in Earneſt and thought to bring it to bear, I can't ſay, but the thing was generally received as a Banter, or as a Piece of Mr. *Wild*'s Wit, and no farther Steps were taken in it.

It was about this Time that he projected the carrying on a Trade to *Holland* and *Flanders*, and thereupon purchaſed a Sloop, and put in one *Roger Johnſton* to command her, who had long been one of *Jonathan*'s clever Fellows. He carried over Gold Watches, Rings, Plate, and now and then a Bank or Goldſmith's Note, that had been *ſpoke with by the Way of the Mail*, his chief trading Port was *Oſtend*, where he is very well known, from whence he uſually travelled up to *Bruges*, *Ghent*, *Bruſſels*, and other great Towns, where he brought his Watches and Jewels to Market, and then took in a Lading of Hollands, and other Goods, and returned to *England*.

It is not to be expected that *Jonathan* and *Roger* would let any one Share in their Profits. It would have

have been inconſiſtent with their Practice in any Part of Life, who never pay'd for any thing they had, to pay Cuſtom to the King, that would have been reflected upon as an idle and fooliſh thing, to Men of their Capacities: No, quite otherwiſe, the Cargo came uſually ſafe to Land the firſt Night; and at a certain Houſe not far from *Newington-Butts*, moſt part of the dark Buſineſs was acted, where Councils were ſecretly held, and Projects form'd.

Roger drove on this Buſineſs above two Years pretty ſucceſsfully, till an unlucky Accident happen'd by ſome Negligence or other, when two Pieces of Holland were loſt by ſome Means, in the Shipping them for *England*, where, when he arriv'd, he ſtopped the Price of them out of his Mate's Wages, making him pay for the whole Loſs; which ſo provok'd the Mate, that he went immediately, and gave Information of *Johnſton*'s running ſuch Quantities of Goods. Whereupon the Veſſel was Exchequer'd in the River, and was oblig'd to ſtand a Tryal in that Court with the King, in which he was caſt in 700 *l.* Damages, which put an End to his trading to *Holland*.

Jonathan ſoon miſs'd his Return from *Oſtend*, having three Wives living, and a *Seraglio* of Miſtreſſes to maintain, and being frequently importuned by People who had been robbed, to help them to their Things, he ventur'd to dabble again, but with great Caution, and that only for Perſons of Diſtinction; and to make an Attonement, he every now and then made an Offering to the Gallows, of ſome idle Raſcal or other who did not come down to him, or who, according to his Notion of thinking, was fit for nothing but hanging. By which finding his Account in it, and that no bad Conſequence as yet had ſucceeded, he grew every Day bolder, believing at length he might go on as he

uſed to do, and that he ſhould be connived at; and ſo going on in Roguery from one Degree to another, he ventur'd down to the late Inſtallment at *Windſor*, accompanied by Madam *Wild*, and attended by a Company of Footmen in lac'd Liveries, and the Detachments he order'd down upon that Occaſion, made as good a Figure in Equipage and Dreſs, as moſt of the People there.

And there being a conſiderable Booty brought of from that Expedition by his *Myrmidons*, Mr. *Wild* had much Application made to him by People of Faſhion for their Jewels and Watches to be return'd upon a reaſonable Compoſition, whom he treated with the moſt Impudence imaginable, in Defiance of the late Act, breaking off with ſeveral, becauſe they would not comply with his exorbitant Demands, for whereas at firſt he took no more for any thing of Plate than its Value in Weight, now he would make them pay for the Faſhion, otherwiſe they ſhould never have them again, deſigning to ſend them over to *Holland*, where he was ſure of a better Market, yet all this while no Proſecution followed all theſe bold Proceedings, which made him believe he could do any thing notwithſtanding he had not long ago a narrow Eſcape, as will appear by the following Relation.

Jonathan ſitting one Day at an Inn in *Smithfield*, obſerv'd a large Trunk in the Yard, and fancying there might be ſomething of Value in it, he went Home, and ordered one *Rann*, a notorious Thief, to dreſs himſelf like a Porter and *ſpeak with it*, *Rann* obeys orders, and brings it off, which belonged to Mr. *Jarvis* a Whipmaker in that Neighbourhood, who was ſending it down to a Country Chap.

There was in it a great deal of rich Linen and ther Things for a Wedding, upon Mr. *Jarvis* applying

plying to *Jonathan*, after a great many Delays, he had moſt of the Goods again for ten Guineas, and *Wild* and *Rann* falling out a little after, *Jonathan* got him hang'd; But the Day before his Death he ſent for Mr. *Jarvis*, and told him the whole Matter, who being ſatisfy'd by his Servant that *Jonathan* was in the Yard when the Trunk was laid down, had ſome Thoughts of proſecuting *Wild*, but Mr. *Jarvis* dying ſoon after, he had the good Luck to eſcape for that Time.

But now it being decreed by Providence, that *Jonathan* ſhould reign no longer, he was infatuated to bring now about his own Ruin. Mr. *E—w—ds* having Information where a conſiderable Quantity of rich Goods lay, ſuppoſed to be ſtolen, obtained a Warrant for the Seizure of them, which was accordingly done; this ſo provoked *Jonathan* that although he did not go and claim the Goods as his own, yet he had the Aſſurance to go and take out an Action in the Name of *Roger Johnſton*, to whom he pretended the Goods belong'd, and arreſted Mr. *E—w—ds* who ſeized them, and threw him into the *Marſhalſea*, where he continued all *Saturday* Night, till Mrs. *Spurling* gave her Word for his Appearance: By which we ſee, *that when Rogues and Wh—s fall out, honeſt Men come by their own.* But herein *Jonathan* was out of his Cunning, in differing with the People who belonged to *Newgate*, as alſo pretending to recover thoſe Goods by Law, the very poſſeſſing of which would hang him, if they ſhould be found upon him; which being a Proceeding ſo bare-fac'd and Impudent in the Eyes of the World, that many Perſons begun to conſider what they had been doing, and endeavour to find out Means to bring *Jonathan* to Juſtice, with which he was threaten'd by many, which occaſioned a Report about the Town that *Jonathan* was fled from Juſtice; upon which he publiſh-

ed a Bullying Advertiſement in the *News Papers*, offering a Reward of ten Guineas to any Perſon who ſhould diſcover the Author of ſo ſcandalous a Report, and at the ſame time he ran into all publick Places to ſhew himſelf, and let the World ſee that he was not run away as was reported.——— Yet in the midſt of all this bluſtering, he was ſeiz'd and committed to *Newgate*.

There are ſome other Circumſtances in this Story, but as we had it only from his own Mouth, that he was malicious againſt the Perſons concerned, and endeavoured to aſperſe them, we ſhall ſay no more of it.

How far *Roger Johnſton* was concern'd with *Jonathan* at the Time of his Apprehenſion, I ſhall not determine, but leave the World to judge, when immediately upon *Jonathan*'s being committed to *Newgate*, an Expreſs was ſent over, and *Johnſton* with a Brother of the Faculty came down to *Oſtend*, and appeared like Perſons of Quality, telling the News to all he met, ſwearing he'd hang both *Jonathan* and the B—— who called herſelf his Wife, and ſo taking a Packet, he hires her for *Dover*. But as he has not been ſeen in *London*, we may very well ſuppoſe hanging of *Jonathan* was the leaſt of his Buſineſs; and indeed he would have been very much to blame if he had, for *Jonathan* was certainly hang'd to ſave him; and that's a Friend indeed to lay down his Life for another.

I cannot forbear obſerving ſomething remarkable in the Fate of this Fellow. Firſt, that he had Opportunity of eſcaping, after that he knew a Proſecution was deſigned againſt him. And ſecondly, That the Fact for which he died, was committed while he was a Priſoner in *Newgate*, for, he was ſo infatuated as to imagine, that the taking of but ten Guineas for the Recovery of the Lace

when

when the Owner offered twenty, and refuſing to accept of any thing for his own Trouble, as alſo that the palliating Speech he made her, that *he did theſe Things only to ſerve poor People who hath been wrong'd*, would have been Circumſtances in his Favour when he ſhould come to be tryed: Not in the leaſt conſidering, that he directly by this Action, incurr'd the Penalty of the Act of Parliament, which is a ſufficient Proof that all his former Cunning forſook him, when he wanted it moſt; which make Good that ſaying, *Quem Jupiter vult perdere dementas prius*, which is as much as to ſay, whom *Jupiter* has a Mind to deſtroy, he makes him firſt mad.

'Tis certain no Malefactor, eſpecially one of his Villainy, who had no equal, ever ſtood his Ground ſo long, committing every Day Acts of Felony in Sight of the World, and what is more with their Approbation, ſo that it has been computed that in fifteen Years, he has received above Ten Thouſand Pounds for his Dividend of ſtolen Goods, beſides his ſumptuous Living in Rioting and Wantonneſs.

But Vengeance at laſt overtook him, and from the Minute he was ſeiz'd his Cunning and Reſolution failed him. Nor was he in the leaſt as moſt of them are, ſpirited up with the Hopes of a Reprieve, which ſome People would endeavour to flatter him with, and induſtriouſly ſpread ſuch a Rumour about, whilſt they were trembling leſt it ſhould be ſo, becauſe it is ſuppos'd they were no Strangers to each others Practices.

I am not indeed to make a Jeſt of theſe Things, there is ſomething ſhocking and diſmal in the very Relation, and therefore it is that this Account of the Life of *Jonathan Wild*, which in its Nature is all a Tragedy, is not related with an Air of Banter and Ridicule as others are, and therefore

it is hoped, it will not be leſs acceptable to Men of Senſe. It is a ſolemn and terrible Thing God knows, to look back on a Life of ſuch harden'd abominable Practices, to ſee it carried on in Defiance of God or Man, and that with Succeſs too, not only paſſing for ſo many Years unpuniſhed but meeting with Encouragement. And tho' there are ſome Things in the long Series of his wicked Life, which may reliſh with the Livity of a Droll-way of Writing; yet to ſee a Man turn'd into an Incarnate Devil, his Life a Scene of inimitable Crimes, his very Society a Hell, and equally devouring both to Soul and Body, he that can read it I ſay without ſome Horror, muſt have very little Goodneſs or Compaſſion in him.

To ſee him, I ſay, pick up an unthinking Youth in the Streets, covered with Dirt and Rags, and willing on any Terms to get out of his Miſery, to ſee this ſuperlative Wretch pretend Charity to the Child, and tell him he would provide for him, and thereby engage the Lad to him, as a Man ſent from Heaven to do him Good, and provide for him; but inſtead of doing all this, he takes him by the Hand and leads him to Hell Gates, and after that like a true Devil thruſt him in: For firſt to tempt, and then to accuſe, is the very Nature of the Devil, as *Jonathan* did; firſt making poor deſolate vagabond Boys Thieves, and then when they were no longer for his Purpoſe, betraying them to the Gallows: Who can think of theſe Things without a juſt Abhorrence? Who can think it to be any leſs then the worſt ſort of Murther? Such was the Life, and ſuch was the Practice of this wicked Man. And in the laſt Scene of his Life he grew ſo very audacious, that it ſeemed as if he was preparing himſelf for his own Deſtruction.

'Tis reported *Blake* alias *Bleuskin* ſaid at the very laſt, *Jonathan* firſt made him a Thief and then hang'd

hang'd him, it being neceſſary for *Jonathan* to have always ſome Chaſe in his View, to build his own Merit upon; and when his Danger was great, he always hanged a notorious Rogue to take off the Slur from himſelf; for which *Bleuskin* was near giving him a Paſs into another World, by that deſperate Attempt to cut his Throat in the Face of a Court of Juſtice, which *Jonathan* though ſurprized then, has had Leiſure ſince to wiſh it had been effectually done at that time, which he owned publickly in the *Preſs-Yard* two Days before his Tryal.

But to come nearer to the particular Fact for which he ſuffered. *Katherine Stetham* depoſed, that on the 22d of *January* 1724-25, between three and four in the Afternoon, a Man and a Woman came into her Shop, under Pretence of buying ſome Lace, who were ſo difficult, that ſhe had none below that would pleaſe them, upon which ſhe left her Daughter in the Shop and went up Stairs, and brought down another Box, but not agreeing about the Price, they went away together, and about half an Hour after, ſhe miſſed a Tin Box of Lace, that ſhe valued at Fifty Pounds, upon which ſhe went to *Jonathan Wild*'s Houſe, but not meeting with him, ſhe advertiſes the Lace that ſhe had loſt, with a Reward of fifteen Guineas, and no Queſtions ask'd, ſtill hearing nothing of it, ſhe went to *Jonathan*'s Houſe again, and then met with him; who deſired her, as if he knew nothing of the Matter, to give him a Deſcription of the Perſons ſhe ſuſpected, which ſhe did as near as ſhe could, and then he told her, he'd make Enquiry, and bid her call again in two or three Days, which ſhe did, and then he ſaid that he had heard ſomething of the Lace, and expected to know more of the Matter in a little time; ſhe came again on the 15th of

February,

February, the Day he was apprehended, and told him, ſhe'd give 20 or 25 Guineas, rather then not have her Lace again. *Don't be in ſuch a Hurry*, ſaith he, *I don't know but I may help you to it for leſs, and if I can I will? The Perſons that have it are going out of Town, and I ſhall ſet them to quarrelling about it, and then I ſhall get it the cheaper.* On the Tenth of *March* he ſent her Word, that if ſhe would come to him in *Newgate*, and bring 10 Guineas in her Pocket, he would help her to the Lace; upon which ſhe went, and he deſired her to call a Porter, but ſhe not knowing where to find one, he ſent a Perſon who brought one, who appeared to be a *Ticket Porter*, who gave her a Letter, which he ſaid was ſent him, as a Direction where to go for the Lace, but ſhe could not read it, and ſo delivered it to the *Porter*, whom *Jonathan* deſired her to give 10 Guineas, or elſe, he ſaid, the Perſon who had the Lace would not deliver it, which ſhe did, and he went away, and in a little time returned with the Box ſealed up, wherein ſhe found all her Lace, but one Piece. *Now* Mr. *Wild*, ſaith ſhe, *What muſt you have for your Trouble, not a Farthing*, ſaith he, *I don't do theſe Things for worldly Intereſt, but only for the Good of the poor People who have met with Misfortunes, as for the Piece of Lace that is miſſing, I hope to get it for you e're it be long, and I don't know but that I may help you not only to your Money again, but to the Thief alſo, and if I can, much good may it do you. And as you are a good Woman, and a Widow, and a Chriſtian, I deſire nothing of you but your Prayers, and for them I ſhall be thankful, I have a great many Enemies, and God knows what may be the Conſequence of this Impriſonment.*

This is a Black Story indeed, and it was very remarkable, that the Fact was really committed, that is to ſay, the Felony was contracted in de-

livering

livering the Goods, and taking the Money for diſcovering them, after his being committed to *Newgate*. As alſo, that there was another Caſe, much of the ſame Nature, which lay ready to have been brought to a Hearing, if this had not intervened, namely, of a Pocket-Book ſtolen from Mr. *Tidman*, a *Corn-Chandler* in *Giltſpur-ſtreet* near *Newgate*, in which was a Bank-Bill for 116 Pounds, to which there were two Perſons Witneſſes, who had pleaded to their Pardon.

I ſhall ſpeak no more of his Villainies, which exceed in Number and Hainouſneſs any thing that was ever done before, but ſhall give a ſhort Account of his Behaviour after Condemnation, and at the Place of Execution, at which laſt Place he indeed ſcarce ſaid a Word, to God or Man, being either doz'd with the Liquid *Laudanum* which he had taken, or demented and confus'd by the Horror of what was before him, and the Reflection of what was within him.

Nor even before he took the Doſe of *Laudanum*, was he in any ſuitable manner ſenſible of his Condition, or concerned about it, very little Sign appeared of his having the leaſt Hope concerning his future State; but as he lived hardened he ſeemed to die ſtupid.

He declin'd coming to Chapel, either to the Sermon or Prayers, pleading his Lameneſs by the Gout, but chiefly the Crowds and Diſorders of the People, diſcompoſing or diſordering him. In the Condemn'd Hold and Chapel, they had Prayers as uſual, but *Jonathan* never went to them, tho' it's ſaid the Night before he died, the *Ordinary* adminiſtred the Sacrament to him in his Chamber in the Preſs-Yard. By the former Part of his Life, and what follows, you may judge how fit he was to receive it, and whether the Ordinary was not more to blame, to give it him in ſo unprepared a Condition

dition of Life, or *Jonathan* to receive it, who at the ſame time was premeditating to be his own Executioner, and ſave the Hangman the Labour by Poyſoning himſelf.

His principal Enquiries ſeem'd to be about what kind of State was to be expected after Death, and how the inviſible World was to be deſcribed; but nothing of the moſt certain Judgment, which is there to be expected, righteous and terrible, according to the Deeds done in the Body, or of a Saviour to whom to have recourſe, as the Slayer in the Old Law had to the City of Refuge, to ſave him from the Avenger of Blood.

As his Time ſhortened, he ſeemed more and more confus'd, and then began to entertain Diſcourſes of the Lawfulneſs of diſmiſſing our ſelves out of the preſent Miſery, after the Example of the ancient *Romans*, which, as he ſaid, was then eſteemed as an Act of Bravery and Gallantry, and recorded to their Honour.

This kind of Diſcourſe was indeed ſufficient to have cauſed the Keepers to have had an Eye to him, ſo as to prevent any Violence he might offer to himſelf, and they did watch him as narrowly as they could? however he ſo far deceived them, as that the Day before his Execution, he found Means to have a ſmall Bottle with Liquid *Laudanum* conveyed to him unſeen, of which he took ſo large a Quantity, that it was ſoon perceived by the Change it made upon him, for he was ſo Drouſie that he could not hold up his Head, or keep open his Eyes, at the Time of reading Prayers.

Upon this two of his Fellow-Priſoners endeavoured to rouſe him (not ſuſpecting he had taken enough to hurt himſelf, and taking him by the Hands, they perſuaded him to ſtand up and walk a little about the Room, which he could not do without Help, becauſe of the Gout.

This

This walking, tho' it did a little awaken him, had ſeveral other Operations at the ſame time, for firſt it changed his Countenance, turned it to be exceeding pale, then it put him into a violent Sweat, which made him apprehend he ſhould faint, upon which they offered to give him ſomething to keep up his Spirits, but he refuſed it, telling them he was very Sick, ſoon after which he vomited very violently, and this in all Probability prolonged his Life for the Execution; for by their ſtirring him, and making him vomit, he brought up the greateſt Part of the *Laudanum* which he had taken, before it had been long enough in his Stomach to mix with the Animal Spirits or Blood; which if he had done but one Hour more, he would certainly have taken his laſt Sleep in the Priſon.

But Nature having thus diſcharged it ſelf of the Load, he revived again, and tho' he ſtill dozed he was inſenſible of what he ſaid or did, yet he was able to walk about, ſpeak, and act ſufficiently for the Part that remained to him, namely, to the laſt Scene of his Life at the Gallows.

Accordingly, on *Monday* the 24th of *May* 1725, he was conveyed in a Cart to *Tyburn*, and tho' it was apparent that he was ſtill under the Operation of the *Laudanum*, and that which was left in his Stomach had ſo far ſeized upon his Spirits, as to make him almoſt ſtupid, yet it began to go off, and Nature getting the Maſtery of it, he ſeemed to be more ſenſible of what he was going about, but the Scene was then ſhort, and he had little to do but to ſtand up in the Cart; and the needful *Apparatus* being made, he turned off with the reſt, which was done about three of the Cloek in the Afternoon.

The Rudeneſs of the Mob to him both at his firſt going into the Cart, and all the Way from thence to the Place of Execution, is not to be expreſſed

preſſed, and ſhews how notorious his Life had been, and what Impreſſions his known Villainies had made on the Minds of the People; for, contrary to the general Behaviour of the Street in ſuch Caſes, inſtead of compaſſionate Expreſſions, and a general Caſt of Pity, which ordinarily ſet on the Countenances of the People, when they ſee the miſerable Objects of Juſtice going to Execution; here was nothing to be heard but Curſings, and Execrations, abhorring the Crimes, and the very Name of the Man, throwing Stones and Dirt at him all the Way, and even at the Place of Execution; the other Malefactors being all ready to be turned off, but the Hangman giving him leave to take his own time, and he continuing ſetting down in the Cart, the Mob impatient, and fearing a Reprieve, tho' they had no Occaſion for it, called furiouſly to the Hangman to diſpatch him, and at laſt threatened to tear him to Pieces, if he did not tye him up immediately.

In ſhort, there was a kind of an univerſal Rage againſt him, which nothing but his Death could ſatisfy or put an end to, and if a Reprieve had come, it would have, 'twas thought, been difficult for the Officers to have brought him back again without his receiving ſome Miſchief, if not his Death Wounds, from the Rabble.

So deteſtable had he made himſelf by his notorious Crimes, and to ſuch a Height were his wicked Practices come.

Thus ended the Tragedy, and thus was a Life of horror and inimitable Wickedneſs finiſhed at the Gallows, the very ſame Place, where, according to ſome, above 122 miſerable Creatures had been hanged, whoſe Blood in great meaſure may be ſaid to lye at his Door, either in that being firſt brought into the Thieving Trade, or led on it by his Encouragement

couragement and Aſſiſtance, and many of them at laſt betraved and brought to Juſtice by his Means; upon which worſt ſort of Murther he valued himſelf, and would have had it paſſed for Merit, even with the Government it ſelf, all which cannot be better deſcribed than by the following Articles exhibited againſt him in the *Evening Poſt* on *Tueſday May* the 18th, 1724. And moſt other Publick Papers afterwards.

1. It appears by ſeveral Informations upon Oath, that *Jonathan Wild* hath for many Years paſt been a Confederate with great Numbers of Highway-men, Pick-pockets, Houſe-breakers, Shop-lifters, and other Thieves.

2. That he hath formed a kind of Corporation of Thieves, of which he is the Head or Director, and that notwithſtanding his pretended Services in detecting and proſecuting Offenders, he procured ſuch only to be hanged as concealed their Booty, or refuſed to ſhare it with him.

3. That he hath divided the Town and Country into ſo many Diſtricts, and appointed diſtinct Gangs for each, who regularly accounted with him for their Robberies. He had alſo a particular Set to ſteal at Churches in Time of Divine Service, and alſo all other moving Detachments to attend at Court on Birth-Days, Balls, *&c.* and upon both Houſes of Parliament, Circuits, and Country Fairs.

4. That the Perſons employed by him were for the moſt part Felons convict, who were returned from Tranſportation before the Time for which they were tranſported was expired, and that he made choice of them to be his Agents, becauſe they could not be legal Evidences againſt him, and becauſe he had it in his Power to take from them what part of the ſtolen Goods he thought fit, and otherwiſe uſe them ill, or hang them, as he pleaſed.

5. That

5. That he hath from time to time ſupplied ſuch convicted Felons with Money and Cloaths, and lodged them in his own Houſe, the better to conceal them, particularly ſome, againſt whom there are now Informations, for diminiſhing and counterfeiting Broad-Pieces and Guineas.

6. That he hath not only been a Receiver of ſtolen Goods, as well as of Writings of all kinds, for near fifteen Years laſt paſt, but frequently been a Confederate, and robbed along with the abovementioned convicted Felons.

7. That in order to carry on theſe vile Practiſes to gain ſome Credit with the ignorant Multitude, he uſually carried about him a ſhort Silver Staff, as a Badge of Authority from the Government, which he uſed to produce, when he himſelf was concerned in robbing.

8. That he had under his Care and Direction ſeveral Warehouſes for receiving and concealing ſtolen Goods, and alſo a Ship for carrying of Jewels, Watches, and other valuable Goods to *Holland*, where he hath a ſuperannuated Thief for his Factor.

9. That he kept in Pay ſeveral Artiſts to make Alterations, and transform Watches, Seals, Snuff-Boxes, Rings, and other valuable Things, that they might not be known, ſeveral of which he uſed to preſent to ſuch Perſons as he thought might be of Service to him.

10. That he ſeldom or ever helped the Owners to their Notes and Papers they had loſt, unleſs he found them able exactly to ſpecify and deſcribe them, and then often inſiſted on more then half the Value.

11. Laſtly; It appears that he hath frequently ſold Human Blood, by procuring falſe Evidence to ſwear Perſons into Facts they were not guilty of, ſometimes to prevent them from being Evidence againſt himſelf, and at others for the Sake of the great Reward given by the Government.

To

To which is added, *Jonathan Wild's Laſt Farewell* to the World. A POEM.

WITHIN the Confines of that dreary Cell,
where Terrors reign, and where no Comforts dwell,
Where gaſtly Viſions, wretched Souls affright,
And paint a dreadful Tyburn *to the Sight;*
Where ſome in Tears lament, and others ſwear,
While Learned Purney *makes a pious Prayer,*
Or while his Partner fill'd with holy Qualms,
Devoutly hums o'er one of Sternhold's *Pſalms.*
Of Life deſpairing, conſcious of Deſert,
Sad Wild *thus vents the Anguiſh of his Heart:*
Thus of his inauſpicious Fate complains,
As he with gloomy Brow ſurveys his Chains:
Ingrateful Country? Zealous for thy Good,
How often have I hazarded my Blood?
Nor have I Arms alone, but Arts employ'd,
Sword, Piſtols, and Damnation have defy'd.
Warm in thy Cauſe, of Dangers not afraid,
How great a Slaughter has by me been made.
Witneſs, ye Records of this horrid Doom!
Nor let it be forgot, in Days to come!
By me thrice Twenty have in Halters dy'd:
I ſeiz'd 'em, and in vain t'Eſcape they try'd:
'Twas I that Evidence did prepare,
And to the Purpoſe taught them what to ſwear.
Ye Britons! *curſt with unthankful Mind,*
For ever to exalted Merit blind!
Is thus your conſtant Benefactor ſpurn'd?
Are thus his faithful Services return'd!
This Dungeon a Reward of Labours paſt!
And Tyburn *my full Recompence at laſt?*
More generous Bleuskin! *Oh that thy Deſign,*
Had ended this unhappy Life of mine!

O that

O that Succeſs had crown'd the Stroke you gave!
Then had I gone with Honour to the Grave!
How will the Crowds that I have ſent before,
Triumph to meet me on th' infernal Shore.
At me what Looks inſulting will they caſt,
And ſneering cry—Old Friend your come at laſt!
But ſure, e'er long the Time will come again,
When Watches ſhall be loſt in Drury-lane,
Snuff-boxes finely painted, miſs their Way,
And Rings and Pocket-books ſhall go aſtray;
When Phillis, *at the Ball or Maſquerade,*
Shall looſe a Preſent, by ſome Lover made,
Then you unthinking Monſters! you that now
Exult at my unpitied Overthrow:
Then you'll repent too late, you then, in vain
Will wiſh to have your Jonathan *again!*
But you, my hopeful Servants! every where,
Whom I have trained up with a Father's Care,
Sure you ſome grateful Sentiments will have,
And drop a Tear upon your Maſter's Grave!
From Rags, and ſtuntring bare-legg'd up and down,
With Pockets, never bleſſed with half a Crown:
From ſelling Save-alls, pimping at poor Stews,
From raking Kennels, and from blacking Shoes.
'Twas I that rais'd ye, you by me were made
Succeſsful Artiſts in a thriving Trade.
I taught you to live comfortable Lives,
To keep a Train of Whores, and ſtarve your Wives:
Go on and proſper! bravely play your Parts,
Nor leave unpractis'd any of your Arts,
Be Rogues renown'd, and trample on the Laws,
Then nobly you'll revenge your Maſter's Cauſe.

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MUSEUM

JOSEPH BLAKE *alias* BLEUSKIN.

THE LIFE OF *Joseph Blake* alias *Bleuskin.*

JOSEPH BLAKE had been an old Offender, being trained up from fourteen Years old to the Day of his Death, by his Master *Jonathan Wild*, who often skreen'd him from Justice, by giving him Notice to keep out of the Way, or making him an Evidence as Occasion served, till he committed the Robbery along with *John Shepherd* and *William Field* at Mr. *Kneebone*'s Shop, which made such a Noise about Town, that *Jonathan* did not think it safe to countenance him any longer; this so provoked *Blake*, that he attempted to cut *Wild*'s Throat at the *Old-Bayly*; which if he had done effectually, it would have been well for *Jonathan*, for then he would have saved the Hangman the Labour, and *Jonathan* would not have died so publick a Rogue to the World as he did.

Blake

Blake was born at *London*, and kept five or six Years at School to learn to Read and Write, where he got acquainted with one *William Blewit*, who first introduced him into *Jonathan Wild*'s Acquaintance. His Parents would have put him to a Trade, but he hated to be confined, and would take to nothing, loitering away his Time amongst Pick-pockets and Thieves in *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, where he got acquainted with one *Edward Polit*, with whom he robbed for many Years, till he made himself an Evidence, and hanged him about three Years ago, for snatching a Woman's Pocket in *Thread-needle-street*, wherein they found Seven and Thirty Shillings in Silver, some Half-pence, a Snuff-box rimmed with Silver, and guilt within, a Tortoise-shell Tobacco-box, which he swore he sold to a Sailor for two Shillings, and a Bottle with some *Geneva* in it.

Not long after he met in a Coach, Mother *Wybourn* and a young Girl, whose Maiden-head the old Bawd had been selling at *Hamstead*, from whom he took twenty Guineas, the Purchase of her betraying the young Woman. When at first he stopp'd the Coach, the Bawd swore she knew him, and if he durst rob her, she would certainly hang him. *You double Pox'd Salivated B——ch*, quoth *Jo*, *you deserve hanging more than I, for ruining both Body and Soul of many a poor Man and Woman, whom you procure to work Iniquity for your own Profit; there is no Body your Friends, but the Beadles and Justices Clerks, who for a Bribe may work your Peace with his Master: Come, no dallying, deliver your Money, or else your Life must be a Sacrifice to my Fury.* At which she delivered her Money, calling him a Thousand Names. And he paid her in her own Coin; and for her Sawciness stripped her stark naked, to put her in Mind, as she came naked into the World, so she must go naked out.

Blake

Blake had uncommon Miſhaps in his ill Practiſes, more than any of his Companions, being often detected, and frequently ſent to the *Compters*, *Workhouſe*, or *Bridewell*, when young, but always releaſed by his old Friend *Jonathan*, who found him an acute Rogue, though an unlucky one: But after getting acquainted with *Molhony*, *Carrick*, and *Carrol*, they committed many Robberies together in the Town and Country, robbing Stage-Coaches, almoſt every Day in one Corner of the Town or other, where they often met with a pretty good Prey, which ſupplied them with Money enough to ſupport their Extravagancies, till *September* 1719, they robbed the *Southampton*, *Salisbury*, and *Taunton-Dean* Coaches, which raiſed the Country upon them, and like to have taken them, which put *Carrol* into ſuch a Fright, that he fled to *Ireland*, where he was killed as the *Thief-taker* was apprehending him.

They robbed afterwards *F. Clarke*, Eſq; one *Monday* Night, in a Place between *Covent-Garden* and *Conduit-ſtreet*, of a Sword and eight Shillings in Silver, when a Gentlewoman looking out at her Window, and called to them. *Blake* fired a Piſtol at her, but ſhe happily withdrawing her Head, the Bullet grazed againſt the Wall. And afterwards they attacked Captain *Langley* at the End of *Tyburn-Road*, going in a Coach to the Camp at *Hyde Park*; who ſo reſiſted them, that though they cut and ſhot through his Coat in many Places, they could not rob him, as he declared before the Judge.

Not long after this *Blake* met with one *Owen Davis*, *a Welch* Attorney going into *Wales*, whom he bid *Stand and Deliver*, at which *Owen Davis* began to beg and pray, *That he would not rob him this Vacation Time.* Quoth *Blake*, *what a Plague is that for Time? Sir*, reply'd Davis, *the worſt of Time in all the Year.* Quoth *Blake*, *what is that*

to me, Deliver, or you are a dead Man. Upon which he gave him Thirteen-pence Halfpeny, which was his All, which ſo incenſed *Blake*, that he firſt called him all the Names he could think of, and then broke his Sword, which was worth about a Shilling more

Another time *Blake* meeting with one *Jack Bayly* on *Putney-heath*, he commanded him to *Stand and Deliver*, upon which a ſharp Engagement enſued; but there happened no Damage on either Side. *Blake* ſaid, for his Courage, if he durſt put Confidence in him, he would treat him with a Glaſs of Wine at *Putney*. *Bayly* gave his Word he might, and ſo they went together; and amongſt other Diſcourſe, *Blake* asked him what Employment he follow'd, who anſwered, *That he had formerly been a Boatſwain to the* Neverwag. Saith *Blake*, *I never heard of that Ship, Ah! Dear Sir*, ſaith *Bayly*, *that's a Wonder, for ſhe is older than any Ship in the Navy. Where doth ſhe lie*, ſaith *Blake? In Newgate-ſtreet*, ſaith the other, *I hope, Sir, you never was on Board her. Have you no Part in any Ship now?* yes, ſaid *Bayly*, and a very large one, which lieth at Anchor in *Southwark*, under Captain *John Darby*, by Direction of Sir *John Darnold*. Why then ſaith *Blake*, I ſuppoſe you are a Bayly by Practice as well as by Name, which I take to be a very dangerous Calling. Ah, ſaid *Bayly*, dangerous enough, but not ſo dangerous as troubleſome; for ſometimes I am more plagued to take a Man for ten Shillings, than another for a Hundred Pounds: I was above three Weeks in taking of a damn'd Shoomaker for Fifteen-pence, till one Day breaking ſome Earthen-ware, which ſtood without his Chamber-door, the Shooemaker crying *Cat-whore*, opened the Door and was taken; Another time I was as much plagued to take a Glazier, for ſuch another Sum, due to a Skittle-ground in *More-Fields*; dang-

ling

ling after his Arſe a Fortnight without Succeſs; but taking two or three Loaves under my Arm, one Day I went to his Lodgings, and asked who that Bread was for? Upon which the Glazier whipp'd up to take it, before he could take hold of it, I took him. However, let me tell you, I was once met with by *Jack Snitch* a Taylor, whom I had been hunting after for above ſix Weeks in vain, and one Day getting a Livery, I took a Gentleman's Coat over my Arm, pretending I brought it from Mr. *Wild* in the *Old-Baily*, who was his Cuſtomer, he having made ſeveral ſorts of Liveries for *Quilt Arnold* before: But the Taylor not taking my Voice, bid me put my Finger through the Hole, and lift up the Lachet, which I had no ſooner done, but he clapp'd his red hot Gooſe againſt it, and had almoſt burnt my Finger off as you may ſee, although Dr. *Shaw* the Surgeon had two Guineas of me to cure it. Quoth *Blake*, he was a ſad Dog, he came up with you; have you no more of theſe Stories, Sir, I proteſt yours is a very merry Life, theſe Stories are very diverting: Yes, ſaith the other, above a Hundred; I'll tell you one that ſeems to be of more dangerous Conſequence, and yet I come off without any Damage: A certain Gentleman being about eight hundred Pounds in Debt, took Sanctuary in the *Temple*, of which Money he owed ſeven hundred Pounds to a Merchant, who offered me one hundred Pounds to take him, I watching him one Day, fixed a Boat with a Couple of my Companions in it, and taking him up in my Arms, threw him over the Wall into the Boat, and leaped after him, otherwiſe my Body had been pricked full of Eye-holes; for there was about twenty drawn Swords after me. Thus they ſpent the Evening, and then parted. *Blake* paying the Reckoning, but e'er he went far, he met with a Taylor, who had been to carry Home a

Suit of Cloaths, from whom he took about 4 Pounds which help'd to bear the Expences of the Day.

Blake was concerned in the Robbery with *Joſeph Rice*, who was ſhot by the Lady *Chudleigh's* Footman, as he was climbing a Bank, after they had robb'd the Chariot behind *Buckingham-houſe*. But in *September* 1721. *Wilkinſon* being apprehended, turn'd Evidence, and informed againſt *Joſeph Blake*, *William Lock*, *James Lincoln*, and *Val. Carrick*. *Will. Lock* being ſoon after apprehended for having robb'd Mr. *Young* in his Chair in *Great Queen-ſtreet*, of a Gold-Watch and Money, in Company with *Val. Carrick* and *John Molhony*, who were executed for it. *Lock* gave an ample Information before Juſtice *Blackerby*, containing about ſeventy Robberies, and alſo the Robbery and Murther of *Peter Martin*, by *Wilkinſon* at the *Park Wall*, *June* the fourth; ſo that *Wilkinſon* was try'd, convicted, and executed for the Murther, his Information being ſet aſide by the Management of *Jonathan Wild*, in whoſe good Grace *Blake* ſtood very well at that time, having lately given Madam *Wild* a Gold Watch he ſnatch'd from a Gentlewoman's Side, coming out of the Meeting at *Salter's-hall*, ſo that *Blake* being allowed to become an Evidence, and his Information being taken before a Juſtice of the Peace, in which was Inſerted twelve Robberies to which he made Oath, but never a Word how far *Jonathan* had been concerned; the chief was theſe, with *William Blewit* and *Richard Okee*, I ſtopt a Man on Horſeback near *Walworth Common*, bound him, and took nineteen Shillings from him and ſome Copper, a ſtudded Caſe Watch, which Watch being of an old Faſhion, *Jonathan* ſaid he did not much care for it, ſo that I gave it to Mrs. *Jones*, Wife of *Humphrey Jones*, to pawn for me, and ſhe brought me twelve Shillings for it. Three Weeks before he was taken with one *John Junks* alias

Levee

Levee: I took from four Paſſengers in the *Camberwell* Stage-Coach about twenty Shillings. And on the *Sunday* laſt, being the 16th of this Inſtant, with *Matthew Flood*, I robbed a ſingle Gentleman in a four-wheel'd Chaſe, about ſix in the Evening on the *Hamſtead* Road, of a Silver Watch with a black Ribbon, and half a Broad-piece. And on the 10th of this Inſtant, we robbed two Gentlemen with Hunting-caps on, in a Chariot on the *Hampſtead Road*, and took from them two Gold Watches, with Chains and Seals, and out of one Gentleman's Fob, I took a ſmall Ring with an Inſcription writ round it, having a ſmall *Chryſtal-ſtone*, alſo one Guinea in Gold, and about ſixteen Shillings in Silver; the Watches we ſold to *R. Gatterix* of *Southwark* for fourteen Guineas. Note, *Junks* laid down his Piſtol, and with *Rickard Okee* and *John Junks*, I ſtopped a ſingle Man with a Link before him in *Fig-lane*, who reſiſting us, *Junks* and *Okee* beat him with their Piſtols on the Head and Breaſt, and took from him one Guinea and one Penny, and left him in a wounded and ſad Condition. Alſo I, with *Edward Pollit* and *John Junks*, ſtopp'd a Man on Horſeback on *Hampſtead Road*, bound him, and took from him one Guinea, and twelve Shillings in Silver, a great Coat, a Hat, and a colour'd Handkerchief; the Coat *Junks* had for himſelf, but he ſold it a little time after. Alſo with *Matthew Flood* and *John Junks*, I robb'd a Gentleman in a Coach near *Tyburn-houſe* of one Guinea in Gold, and about ſix Shillings in Silver. Hereupon *Junks*, *Okee*, and *Flood* being apprehended, were try'd and convicted of robbing Colonel *Cope* and Mr. *Young* in their Chariot, and ſtealing the Watch that *Carrick* and *Mothony* were executed for before. *Joſeph Blake* alias *Bleuskin* being Evidence againſt them, and *Junks*, *Okee*, and *Flood*, were executed at *Tyburn*; where *Junks* and *Okee*

drank together in a merry Way, and ſaid, *What they had ſo long expected was now come at laſt, and it was welcome; not but that they could have been glad to have lived a Year or two longer, provided they had their Liberty, but they hated Confinement, and therefore were for a* ſhort Life and a merry one.

Blake was ſent back again to the *Compter*, where he for ſome time lived as jovial as the beſt of them, every Day expecting a Reward, not for his Villainy, but for his Information; but it being proved that he did it only to ſave his own Life, having been ſo far from voluntarily ſurrendring himſelf, that he reſiſted when taken with the greateſt Violence; nor was he taken till much wounded, and a large Cut given him in his Head, which proved that he had no real Claim to any thing but the Gallows, if he had then had his Deſert for all his pretended Services; and ſo he continued in the *Compter* about a Year, where he got acquainted with a Woman, who was then a Priſoner, and is now in *Newgate*, who attempted a Complaint againſt the *Turnkeys*, having ſome of them called up and examined at the *Seſſions-Houſe*, they had leave given them to go abroad together; but their real Deſign was to be married at the *Fleet*, whereby her juſt Debts would have been thrown upon a Man who was to be tranſported; but they were prevented as the Service of Matrimony was half perfected.

Jonathan Wild knowing him to be an audacious Rogue, did not much care to truſt to his Honour, and therefore allowed him three Shillings and Sixpence a Week *Huſh-money*, and paid the Surgeon for the Cure of the Wound in his Head, above a Year, till he thought all was ſafe, and then he withdrew his Favours, which *Blake* complain'd of at the *Seſſions-Houſe*, but all to no purpoſe, it was too late.

At

At length having obtained the Favour through the Intereſt of *Jonathan*, of being called before the Magiſtrates, he ſaid he was able to give Security for his Good Behaviour for ſeven Years, and could bring two Men of Reputation who would employ him conſtantly, which was referred by the Court to the Worſhipful Sir *John Fryer*, before whom two Gardeners appeared, and being bound in Recognizance for his Good Behaviour for ſeven Years, he was ſet at Liberty, but being then asked, how many of thoſe Years it would be before he was to be ſeen again at the *Old-Baily*? it was anſwered not above two, which really ſo happen'd, for he immediately returned again to his old way of living, in robbing and plundering all he could meet with, by which he got Money enough to redeem his Miſtreſs who was in the *Compter* for Debt. And then for his better Security, withdrew himſelf with her to *Scotland*, where ſhe met with one Mr. *Hamilton* a Lawyer, who was mightily in Love with her, and offered her great Sums of Money to lye with her, which ſhe communicated from time to time to her ſuppoſed Husband *Joſeph Blake*, pretending all the while to a great deal of Modeſty to the Lawyer, but he promiſing her Wonders, *Blake* perſuaded her to give way to Mr. *Hamilton*'s Addreſſes, and for the reſt, ſaith he, let me alone.

Upon which ſhe began to careſs the Lawyer, who mightily pleaſed with his Succeſs, made every Day nearer Approaches unto her ſuppoſed Virtue, till at length ſhe plainly told him, it was not only her Poverty, but rather her Affection that made her more and more uneaſy without him, which ſet the Lawyer ſo a gog that he did not part with her without a Promiſe. And having agreed the Day and Hour, the Lawyer met her at the Place appointed and gave her a hundred Pounds, where they were no ſooner come, but the Lawyer ſtrait

undreſſed himſelf, when *Blake* jumped from under the Bed, and knocked his Brains out with a great Club, which troubled the Woman very much, not imagining he would carry the Joke on ſo far as to kill him; but *Blake* bid her not trouble herſelf, for he would take care it ſhould never be known till they got off. And ſo he takes the dead Lawyer on his Back and carries him Home, and lays him down in his own Houſe of Office upon the Seat, that People might imagine when they found him that he was killed there.

Now the Day before, the Lawyer had told a Friend of his of the Affair with the *Engliſh* Woman, who ariſing at Midnight on account of the Gripes goes to the Neceſſary-Houſe, where he found the Lawyer in before him, who after a long while waiting, and finding he did not come out, he pulled him by the Sleeve, which made the Corps fall to the Ground; at which the Man being much affrighted, they having had ſome Words over-night, and fearing he ſhould thereupon be brought in a Scrape, he carries the Body back to the *Engliſhman*'s Houſe, concluding it had been killed by him, becauſe he knew him to be a deſperate Man, on account of the Intrigue between the Lawyer and his Wife, but that he could not prove, but places it up right againſt the *Engliſhman*'s Door, and ſo comes home and went to Bed.

The Woman by chance about half an Hour after had occaſion to get out of Doors, to eaſe Nature, which ſhe had no ſooner opened, but down tumbles the dead Body into the Houſe, which put her into ſuch a Fright that ſhe was ſoon rid of her Looſeneſs, and run ſtraight to *Blake*, telling him the dead Body was come back again; at which he bid her not be troubled, but ſwore he would carry him where he ſhould never come back, ſo up he takes him, and as he was going to throw him into a River, he heard a Noiſe, which made him ſtand up cloſe in a Cor-

ner,

ner, till they were paſt by him. But his Fear ſoon turned into Joy, for thoſe that made the Noiſe were Thieves, as well as himſelf, who had juſt robbed a Cheeſe-monger of two Flitches of *Bacon*, and were conſulting were to go to get a Glaſs of Wine, and leave the *Bacon* till they came back, which they put in an empty Cellar, which *Blake* obſerving, he takes out the *Bacon*, and carries it home, putting the Corps in the room in the Sack.

In the mean time, the Thieves being got merry, offered the Landlord to ſell him a Parcel of *Bacon*, who reply'd, He was not uſed to buy a *Pig in a Poke*, wherefore he bid them let him ſee it, and then he did not know but he might. Upon which a Couple of Thieves, not dreaming of the Exchange, went and fetched the Sack, which they had no ſooner open'd, but out pops the Lawyer's Head, at which the Vintner cry'd, *Oh! Villains, what have you done? have you killed Mr.* Hamilton, *and are ſo impudent to bring him here to ſell him for* Bacon. The Thieves were no leſs aſtoniſhed than he, and ſtood ſtaring at one another, knowing not what to ſay, which made the Vintner cry out the more till he had them ſecured, and committed to Goal, where being found Guilty of Murther, they were all hanged ſhortly after at *Glaſcow*.

Blake and his Conſort the mean while packed up their Awls, and made the beſt of their Way for *London* with the Lawyer's Money, but near *York* meeting with a Couple of Highwaymen, they were robbed of it all, and notwithſtanding *Blake* publickly declared he was one of the ſame Profeſſion, it wou'd not do, becauſe he had not got his Credentials about him, which is a Pair or two of Pocket-piſtols, a Rope and Gag, but however they ſaid they did not know him, yet he looked like a Rogue enough, and for that reaſon they would give him a couple of Guineas to buy Bridles and Sadles, and all other

Accoutrements, and if he could not then provide for himſelf he might be hanged and go to the D---l if he would.

Blake had not marched much further, before he met with a *Londoner* going to *York*, whom he ſtopp'd, and challenged his Horſe, ſwearing it was that Day ſtolen from him, and if not immediately returned, he muſt expect the Conſequence; who ſeeing it in vain to diſpute, gave him his Horſe and Money to boot, being glad to eſcape with his Life, with which he made the beſt of his way for *London*, and gave his *Doxy* Money to take a Place in the next Coach that came by, and follow him as faſt as ſhe could.

The News of Mr. *Blake* coming again was preſently known amongſt all the Thieves, and there was as much Joy amongſt them, as if there had been a general Goal Delivery, moſt thinking that he had been hang'd at ſome neglected Gallows in the Countries, where the People were ignorant of his Worth, and in two Days his *Crooked Rib* came after him, which occaſioned ſuch Joy at *Jonathan Wild*'s, that the whole *Poſſe* of Thieves were invited to congratulate him; where the *Holland-Geneva* walk'd about upon *Rep*, as faſt as at their firſt Meeting after the Inſtalment at *Windſor*. And *Jonathan* and *Blake* entered into a new Alliance, Offenſive and Defenſive, which *Blake* believed *Jonathan* firſt to have broken, or elſe he often ſaid, he would never have attempted to cut his Throat.

Upon which *Blake* goes and takes a Lodging privately at *Iſlington*, where he fell in Love with the Servant-maid, who was a great lover of a Fiddle, whom he promiſed if ſhe would but walk up with him one Evening to the *Turk's-Head*, where Mr. *Wild* and he uſed to meet to conſult how to carry on Buſineſs, they would have a merry Dance, which ſhe conſented to, but finding him alone, ſhe enquir'd

where

where the Fiddle was, it will be here preſently, ſaith he, *Sweet heart. and you will have a great deal of Pleaſure, but you muſt take ſome Pains your ſelf, and* then began to *kiſs* and *ſmuggle her*, till the *Girl* fell in a *Swoon*, but when ſhe recovered out of her Trance *ſhe asked him if he had done already*, for ſhe was never ſo well pleaſed in her Life, it was the fineſt Muſick ſhe thought ſhe ever met with. After this they took an Opportunity at home almoſt every Day to have another Tune, the *Girl* thinking ſhe ſhould never have her Belly full, and was ſo over-joyed with it, that ſhe told another Servant in the Neighbourhood, what brave Sport ſhe had at the *Turks's-Head*, who going along with her one Day to meet *Blake*, deſired that he would be pleaſed to give her a Tune of the ſame Muſick he did to her Companion, which he did much to the Satisfaction of the Damſel, the other Servant retiring all the while. But returning, ſhe asked her Companion, *If ſhe ever met with ſuch fine Muſick in all her Life-time before?* Who anſwer'd, *That ſhe knew nothing new in it, for her Fellow Servant did as much as that every Day for her. Say you ſo*, ſaith the other, *but this is a handſome Gentleman, and I could never endure Footmen to kiſs me*; *Ay*, ſaith the other, *I beg your Pardon, but take care you don't repent it nine Months hence*, which Advice ſhe took, when ſhe knew the ill Conſequence of it, however *Blake* being full of Money, having had pretty good Succeſs with his dextrous Friend *Jack Shepherd*, whom *Jonathan* had been ſo kind to bring him acquainted with, never wanted a *Miſtreſs*, till at length he became the Town-Bull at *Iſlington*, amongſt whom was his old Landlady, who fawn'd upon him like a Spaniel, but he never could endure her, only for Conveniency's ſake he conſented to her, *ſhe ſhould come to bed to him one Night after her Husband was aſleep*; but in the mean time, he ſent for two or three Pots of

Drink

Drink for ſome Drovers, who lay in the next Room, whom he called into his Room to bear him Company, and after he made them a little merry, he told them he was mightily troubled with a *Spirit*, for which he could not lie alone, which affrightened the poor Fellows ſo much, that they were going to run out of the Room, till he told them, he believed, *It was the Maid-ſervant, who came to affright him*, to prevent which, ſaith he, *Pray take Money and buy ſome Rods, and whip her ſoundly, that ſhe may never come again*, which rejoyced the Ruſticks as much as if they had been invited to a Wedding, who had not ſtayed long in his Chamber after he was gone to Bed and the Candle out, before the old Woman came up, whom *Blake* hearing, ordered the Fellows to make ready their Weapons, and as ſoon as ſhe entered the Room they took up her Smock, and flogged her to ſome purpoſe, till at length ſhe was forced to cry out *Murder*, which awakened her Husband, who not knowing where the Noiſe was, went down Stairs to ſee what was the Matter, in the mean time ſhe got into Bed, and her Husband finding no Body below, came up Stairs to *Blake*'s Room, where the two Fellows thinking that another Spirit was come, begun to be-labour him, as they had before his Wife, who knocked one of them down with his Fiſt, which Blow being ſome-what hard, they took him for a *Hob-Goblin* inſtead of a Woman, and for fear of any more of the ſame, hid themſelves under the Bed, upon which the Landlord calling out Mr *Blake*, he anſwer'd and told him there was Spirits haunted that Room ever ſince he came there, and therefore adviſed him to get away as faſt as he could, which he did, being ſorry for the poor old Man; whilſt his Wife laughed in her Sleeve, to think her Husband had fared no better than herſelf. Which Story being known about the Town, *Blake* was looked upon by the *Milk-maids*

and

and ordinary People to be a Conjurer, and that he held Communion with Spirits, eſpecially after he had puzzled the late Reverend Mr. *Henley* the Curate, in a Conference about the ill Management of the Charity-ſchools, in one of which he had been formerly educated, they ſwore the Devil was his School-Maſter, which brought all the *Wenches* and *Milk-maids* round about *London* to him to know their Fortunes, by which he got a great deal of Money and might have kept his Coach. But being diſcovered by a young Fellow that had been in *Newgate*, who came to him for Advice, whether he ſhould follow the Trade of Thieving any longer, he was glad to *picque* off quickly, and take the Spark along with him, but he drew the young Fellow into a Rob'ery or two with a deſign to inform againſt him, and once more get clear of all his Rogueries, deſigning then to return to *Iſlington* to follow his old Trade of Fortune-Telling, but the young Fellow having put a little Money in his Pocket, gave both *Jonathan* and him the drop, and was never heard of ſince, ſo that he was obliged to ſhelter himſelf in *London*; where he ſet up for a Stock-Jobber in *Change-Alley*, and picked Peoples Pockets both with his Hands and his Tongue by his fawning Ways, cheating abundance of People out of their Money, though at laſt he was cheated himſelf of all he had got by one of his Comrades, which made him ſwear, *all the World was a Cheat, and he was a Fool that had no Hand in it*; upon which he returned again to the Highway to pick up his Loſſes, which proved worſe than the other, for meeting with a *Cambridge* Scholar, who had a large Portmanteau behind him, with old Cloaths and a Gammon of *Bacon*, he took it from him, and gave him in Exchange Four Pounds out of his own Pocket which was all the Money he had, ſo great a Regard had *Blake* to Learning; after he found the want of it

in

in his Practice at *Iſlington*, the Scholar begging and ſaying there was ſixty Pounds in the Portmanteau, which was all the Money he had in the World to pay his Debts, and take his Degree, Orders, and buy him a Gown and Caſſock; but *Blake* no ſooner opened the Portmanteau, but he found the Scholar had out-witted him, curſing himſelf for his Charity; he ſwore it was the firſt Time that ever he did a good Act in his Life, and he was reſolved it ſhould be the laſt.

After this he went Strolling about the Country, till he came to a Gentleman's Houſe, who was noted for having *more Money than Brains*, whom he thought a proper Perſon to try Experience on, and finding in the Yard a Ladder, he raiſed it againſt the *Squire*'s Chamber-windows, and hearing him at play with his Lady, and ſay he would give Five Hundred Pounds to have her *Tow-vow* ſet an Inch higher, he ſtole down the Ladder privately, and reſolved to try one way or other to get this Money, ſo waiting till the Gentleman and his Servant was gone abroad the next Day, he went to the Lady and told her he was a *Tow-vow-ſetter*, and that he was ſent by the *Eſquire* to ſet hers, for which ſhe was to give him the Five Hundred Pounds over the Bed. *Ah! Dear me, reply'd the Lady, my Husband was telling of ſuch a Thing laſt Night?* Well do your Work as well as you can, and I'll give you the Money, which ſhe did, after he had performed it to the Lady's Satisfaction, and then *turning her Smock over her Face, he charges her to lye in that Poſture, about two Hours, without ſpeaking a Word.* Her Maid ſeeing what was done, offered him Forty Pounds to rectify her *Tow-vow*, which he did at the Head of the Stairs, and left her in the ſame Poſture, which the Cook-maid perceiving, gave him ten Pounds to mend her Kettle too, which he had no ſooner done but throws her Cloaths over her Head, and claps the

End

End of a Calve's-Tail into her *Tow-wow*, charging her not to ſtir for two Hours, leſt ſhe ſpoil the Operation, and then marched off with his Booty. Who had not been gone long, before the *Eſquire* came home, and ſeeing the Cook lying in ſuch a Poſture, with the Calve's-tail hanging out of her Belly, he took her to be with Calf, but finding the Chamber-maid at the Top of the Stairs in the ſame Poſture, he thought the Devil was in them both; when running to his Lady, *ſhe begged of him not to diſturb her, for the two Hours was not out, that the Tow-wow-ſetter had ordered her to lye in, for which ſhe had given him the Five Hundred Pounds according to his Order*, which made him fear *a worſe Fool had been there than himſelf*; upon which he ordered his Horſe, to be immediately ſaddled to find out Mr. *Tow-wow-ſetter*, whom he preſently overtook, but not knowing him, he enquired if he ſaw ever a Fellow go by in haſte, which he ſaid he did, and that he was going into the Wood, upon which the Eſquire gave him his Horſe, and promiſed him Fifty Guineas to bring him back, with which he rid away and gave the *Eſquire* the *Go-Bye*.

After which he came to *London*, but going to *Howel*'s Gaming-table in the *Piazza's Covent-Garden*, one Night he loſt all his Money, which made him ſwear, *that which was got over the Devil's Back was ſpent under his Belly*; after which he turn'd *Foot-pad* once more, and committed ſeveral Robberies about Town, and being in *Hampſtead* Church one *Sunday*, he heard the Perſon preaching upon theſe Words, *That the Day of the Lord ſo cometh as a Thief in the Night*, whom he robbed a coming to *London*, ſaying he did not break the Scriptures, for *he robbed him as a Thief in the Day*. After this he met a *Marſhal-court* Attorney, who had once thrown him into the *Marſhalſea*, whom he told he had a Writ of *Capies ad Com:*

Computandum againſt him for his Money, and having a Spight againſt him he robbed him of *two Shillings*, which being all he had, he tied him Neck and Heels together and left him in a Ditch. After this he met with a Parcel of *Gypſies* whom he robbed of about ten Pounds in Silver-ſpoons, Silver Brandy-taſters, and Gold Rings, which they had pilfer'd from ſilly Maids. But Oh? what a *Hallo-loo* did they ſet up, which made the People run to ſee what was the Matter, whom *Blake* meeting ſaid, *The Gypſies had picked his Pocket, and he could not get his Money without whipping them*; *Truly* reply'd the Country-folks, *you did well, for there is not ſuch a pack of Thieves in Hell as theſe Gypſies*, which gave him an Opportunity to run away, before theſe Gypſies could get to the People. And another time he met an Hoſtler coming to *London* with five Pounds in his Pockets, who went formerly to betray him at an Inn in *Barnet*, whom he bid *ſtand and deliver*, who begging heartily to ſave his Money. *Blake* reply'd, *yes, when you are damn'd, where was your tender Heart, when you went about to hang me, go and get more Money you Son of a Whore the ſame way you got this, and ought to take it kindly I don't kill you, I am ſure it is more than you deſerve to let you go clear*, ſo ſhooting his Horſe he let him walk to *London* at his Leiſure.

But *Jonathan Wild* finding that *Blake* and his Aſſociates were tardy in their Payment of the Compoſition Money, he offered a Reward of Twenty Pounds to take either *Blake*, *Molhony*, or *Carrick*, upon which they removed for a Time to *Oxford*, where *Carrick* ſeeing Doctor *Hoskins* in a Coffee-houſe, whom they had formerly robbed, and hearing him ſay that he was going to the Vice-Chancellor's, ſuſpected he was known, becauſe he asked him ſeveral Queſtions, as *What Country-man he was, and how long he had been in* England, *and ſo forth*, they removed their Quarters

ters to *Woodſtock*, either to go to *Ireland*, or return to *London*, they ſhould think moſt proper, when they had more Time to think of it, when *Carrick* ſeemed poſitively bent to leave off theſe wicked Courſes, and return to *Ireland*, but *Molhony* and *Blake* over-ruled it, and ſo they all came to *London*, where the daily Inſtances of the Seiſures of Highwaymen, and the conſtantly hanging them, ſo diſcouraged them, that they thought of a new way of making Attempts on Foot in the publick Streets, and throw of all Correſpondence with *Jonathan Wild*, whom they found was never ſatisfied, except they brought him in all their Booty; to do which they made it their Buſineſs to get acquainted with Perſons of Qualities Servants that attend at *Whitehall*, St. *James*'s, the *Smyrna*, *d'Oſyndar*, and other Chocolate Houſes. And having learned of 'em where their Maſters generally ſpent the Evening, and to what Place they were deſigned after the Evening was ſo ſpent, they lay in wait for them, ſo that by theſe and ſuch Stratagems, they ſeldom paſſed a Week all the Winter, without ſome conſiderable Prize or other; when they were in Want, which was very often, they ſpending their Money very faſt in Rioting and Wantonneſs, and what carried it away faſteſt was at Gaming-Tables, where they commonly ſheltered themſelves, after they had committed a Robbery, and often went home as poor as they came out, tho' they had juſt then ventured their Necks for it.

If they met any one in a Chair, two of them uſually ſtopped the Men that carried it and the other robbed the Gentleman; and if in a Coach only with one Servant behind it, one was ordered to each ſide of the Coach with an Eye to the Footman, and the other to ſtop the Driver. Thus they robbed a *Scotch* Gentleman, whom they had obſerved to have received a Sum of Money in Gold from a *Banker* near *Hungerford-Market*, and after that a Lady in a Chair,

Chair, within three or four Doors of her own House in *Park-Place* in her Return from visiting the late Countess of *Walsingham* in St. *James*'s Palace, from whom they took a Purse with ten Guineas, and a Gold Watch and a Diamond Ring. The third Robbery was in the same Month, on a Coach wherein were four Gentlemen, from whom they took two Silver-Watches and two Silver-Swords, and about three Pounds in Money. Another was in *March* following, when they robbed a Coach with a Gentleman and three Ladies in it of about twenty Pounds Value. The next they took into the Secret, as they call it, was an old Courtier, who had been to visit a young Lady in *Great-Albemarle-Street*, from whom they took a Diamond Ring but no Money, he having given that to the Lady.

The next Adventure was at *Mary-bone* in *August* 1712. where observing a Baronet with only one Servant, to have a great Purse of Gold upon the Green, they dogged him in his Way home to a Field near the Boarded-house, and took above a Hundred Guineas from him, and some Silver, which they gave to his Man, also a Diamond Ring, and a Silver-Watch, but he advertising a bigger Reward for the Watch in the Papers than it could be sold for, he gave it to *Blake* in part of his Share, who carried it to his old Friend *Jonathan*, who gave it as appointed, and had the whole Reward to himself to make Friends, as *Blake* believed.

The next Robbery, which they fully purposed should be the last, that they committed, was in *December* following, when having mov'd their Quarters nearer to *Covent-Garden*, to be near at Hand to the Gaming-Tables in and about the little *Piazza*, *Bow-street*, *Charles-street*, and *Bridge's-street*, they took Notice of a *Frenchman* of Quality, who lodged at a House on the pav'd Stones in St. *Martin's-Lane*, who had stripped most of the Adventurers

at

at Hazard; whereupon they followed him, about one in the Morning, till he came to the Corner of *Bedford-bury*, where ſtopping the Chair they made the Men turn two or three Yards down a bye Alley, and then they robbed him of Two Hundred and Thirty Guineas, his Watch, Ring, and Golden-headed Cane and Sword, and ſo took to their Heels, and made their Eſcape through *Roſe-ſtreet* to *Molhony*'s Lodgings in *Hart-ſtreet*.

Thus being all of 'em once more put into a Condition to live happy, they reſolved to diſperſe themſelves and leave off that wicked Courſe of Life, and ſo they took their Leave of one another, all of them reſolving not to let *Blake* know where they were a going, becauſe they ſuſpected him to have renewed his Correſpondence with *Jonathan Wild*, being well ſatisfied *Jonathan* returned the Watch, which they took from the Gentleman near the *Boarded-Houſe* and had the Reward; but Cards, Dice, and ill Woman ſoon reduced them to their primitive Condition, which made *Molhony*, *Carrick*, and *Carrol* once more conſult how to Retrieve their Loſſes, when at a Meeting at the *Roſe-Tavern* the Corner of *Bridges's Street*, after having followed two Gentlemen in their Chairs in vain into *Taviſtock-ſtreet*, they agreed to meet at the ſame Houſe the Night following, which they did, and then going in Queſt of Prey till about one and two in the Morning coming down *Little Queen-Street*, they ſaw Eſquire *Young* in a Chair, which they ſtopped and robbed him of the Money and Things above-mentioned, in which Fact *Molhony* was taken by a Watchman's Dog, and committed to *Newgate*, when he owned the Robbery and many others, impeaching his Companions, but that not ſerving him, he was hanged for it, the 18th Day of *July* 1722. ſeeming very penitent according to the Principles of his Religion, declaring himſelf to be a *Roman Catholick*.

Joſeph

Joſeph Blake alias *Blueskin*, in the mean time was not wanting in his Extravagancies, by which he had ſpent all his Money, and then aſſociated himſelf with *William Field* and *John Sheppard* again, with whom he committed many Robberies, amongſt which was one upon a Miniſter near *Chelſea*, coming from the Biſhop of *London*'s at *Fulham*, who began to Catechiſe him for following ſuch a Courſe of Life, which he ſaid would one Day bring him to be hanged. *Blake* anſwered, he did not believe it to be any Sin, becauſe he kept cloſe to the Text, *To feed the Poor, and the Rich ſent empty away.*

But that *Blake* might be ſure of a ſweet Life and a ſhort one, *John Sheppard* being taken ill of a Fever, he equip'd himſelf with Horſe and Arms, and made it his Buſineſs to bid Paſſengers *ſtand and deliver* on the *Highway*; which he carried on very ſucceſsful for ſome Time by himſelf, not caring to truſt his Life in the Hands of Strangers, moſt of his old Acquaintance being hanged except *John Sheppard* who was ſick, knowing that a knew Acquaintance might either through Fear or Misfortune, ſome time or other be drawn into accuſe him. One Day ranging about to ſeek whom he may Devour, he met with two Countrymen, who adviſed him not to go forward, for they met three Highwaymen, who about Half a Mile off had robbed them of Forty Pounds, upon which *Blake bid them come back along with him, and his Life to a Farthing, he'd ſoon make them return the Money again*, Who returning him Thanks, rid along with him back, till they had Sight of the three Highwaymen, when he ordered them to ſtay behind, whilſt he rid up, and talked with one of them that lagged behind, to whom he ſaid Sir, *by your Garb and Colour of your Horſe, you ſhould be one of them I look after.* And if ſo, *My Buſineſs is to tell you, That you borrowed of two Friends of mine Forty Pounds, which you muſt*

this

this Minute refund: How ſaith the Highwayman, Forty Pounds, ſure the Fellow is Mad, *So Mad* ſaith Blake, *that your Life muſt pay for it, if you trifle, clapping at the ſame Time a Piſtol to his Breaſt*, ſwearing that his Life was at his Mercy, if he did not deliver that Moment, which the Rogue was compelled to do, and yield his Horſe and Piſtols to Boot, upon which *Blake* got up and rid in queſt of the other two, leaving the Highwayman in charge of the Countrymen, who taking him to be their Companion, were very angry that he ſhould engage with any Body without them; to whom *Blake* anſwered, *you are Miſtaken Gentlemen in your Man, he is taken, and ſo will you be, if you do not immediately give up the Prize for the Day*: At which one of them let fly at him, but miſſing, *Blake* ſhot him thro' the Shoulder, and then turning to the other, who happened to be a Youngſter, he begged for Quarter, which they had, upon delivering up all their Money, which was above a Hundred Pounds, with which he went back to the Countrymen and gave them their Forty Pounds, they being very poor Men, and that Money being all they had in the World; but charged them for the Future to look better after their Money, and not loſe it ſo Cowardly; and ſo going to an Inn at *Brentford*, where hearing how the Hoſtler was uſed to cheat the Horſes of their Corn, he privately hid himſelf under the Manger, where he diſcovered that the Hoſtler had no ſooner given the Horſes their Corn, but he ſwept it into a Canvas Bag under the Manger, which when he had done, *Blake* came out and calling to pay, asked the Hoſtler *what Corn he had given his Mare*, who replied, all he ordered him. Quoth *Blake*, *don't tell me a Lye, for I ſhall ask the Mare preſently*, which made the Inn-keeper Enquire if his Mare could ſpeak. *Yes* ſaith *Blake*. It is impoſſible ſaith the Landlord, *Not at all*, quoth *Blake*,

Blake, for when I was at the Univerſity at Leyden, *I ſtudied Art Magick*, and afterwards having a ſcolding Wife, I transformed her into this Mare whom I now ride, who being brought to him, ſhe laid her Mouth to his Ear through Cuſtom, as the Pidgeon did to *Mahomet*'s, Why Sir, ſaith he, I told you the Hoſtler had cheated her, for ſhe ſaith, he ſwept the Corn into a Bag in the Corner of the Manger; whereupon both going into the Stable, found it ſo, for which the Hoſt begged a Thouſand Pardons, and turned the Hoſtler away, ſwearing he knew nothing of it himſelf, neither would he give any Encouragement to ſuch a Thing; but his own Wife being a Scold, he begg'd to drink a Glaſs of Wine with him, when he told him that his Wife was one of the greateſt Scolds in the World, and that her ill Language was not to be born with, ſaying if he would turn his Wife into a Mare alſo, he would give him fifty Guineas, and pray for him as long as he lived, which he undertook with this Caution, that what ever he ſaw him do with his Wife, he ſhould not ſpeak, for that would ſpoil the Operation, ſo bringing the Woman to him, *Blake* with a piece of Chalk drew a round Ring, in which placing the Woman, who wondering what the Devil they were going to do with her, he made her unſtrip to the Skin, and then putting her upon her Hands and Knees, he got upon her backwards. At the Sight of which the Husband cried out, *D——n ye Sir, hold, What a Plague are ye going to Cuckold me before my Face? Why*, quoth Blake, *ſee, you have broke the Power of my Charm, by your untimely ſpeaking*. However the Landlord for quietneſs Sake had rather loſe his Money, than have his Wife transformed, by graſting a Pair of Horns upon his own Head.

Not long after, overtaking an old rich Graſier upon *Putney* Heath, in a very poor Habit, he told him there was three or four Perſons behind, whom he

ſuſp-

ſuſpected, and therefore he deſired he would carry half a ſcore Guineas for him, till he was out of Danger, to whom the old Man anſwered, *That he had Fifty Guineas tied up in the Lappet of his Shirt, and he would put them to the Reſt.* And ſo riding along till the Coaſt was clear, ſaith *Blake, I believe no Body will take the Pains to rob us this Day, therefore I think I had as good take the Trouble to rob you my ſelf, ſo inſtead of delivering your Purſe, pray give me the Lappet of your Shirt,* which after he had cut off, he rid away to ſeek for another Booty.

The next Day he goes to ſee for his old Companion *John Sheppard*, whom he found perfectly recovered of his Illneſs, and had done ſeveral Robberies in his Abſence along with *Anthony Lamb* and *Edgeworth Beſs* a noted Strumpet he got acquainted with in *Newtners-lane*, in a Week's Time they agreed to venture out upon the *Lay* again, as they call it, when going through *Hampſtead* Road, they reſolved to play ſmall Game, rather than lie idle, and robbed a *Hampſtead* Coach, wherein they took from a Lady's Woman two Shillings and Six-pence, which was all the Profit of that Day's Work, as ſhe was alone and no better provided. But the moſt unhappy Robbery was committed by *John Sheppard* and himſelf, on the Perſon of *J. Pargitar* of *Hampſtead*, near the Half-way Houſe about nine a Clock at Night on *Monday* the twentieth of *June* laſt, from whom they took about three Shillings, *Blake* then ſtruck him on the Head with the Piſtol, ſo that he fell down into the Ditch, and muſt have been ſmothered there, had not *Sheppard* kept his Head from under the Water and Mud, for he was much diſguiſed with Liquor, for which Robbery the *Brightwells*, two Brothers, were try'd at the Seſſions-houſe in the *Old Bayley*, and would have been convicted by the Evidence, who was very poſitive, had not a great Number of Witneſſes ſworn to their being, during all that Evening upon Duty,

which

which I mention to warn Jurymen from ever taking the Oath of a drunken Man, for the eldeſt *Brightwell* who was a Man of a very good Character, and a great deal of Learning, broke his Heart, and died with Grief of it in a Week after his Inlargement, which muſt certainly be a great Grief to the raſh inconſiderable Proſecutor, as well as a Shame to him amongſt all his Acquaintances.

After this, the moſt remarkable Robbery that *Blake* and *Sheppard* committed, was in the Houſe of Mr. *Kneebone*, a Woollen-draper near the new Church in the *Strand*, on the twelfth of *July* 1724. Mr. *Kneebone* depoſed, that he having heard that Mr. *Barton*'s Chamber Door was broke open, and another Neighbour's, and receiving ſome Intimation from *Lamb*'s Father, that his Houſe was marked down to be robbed next, he did that Night that his Houſe was broke open with ſpecial Care, ſee all the Doors and Windows faſt when he went to Bed, that early the next Morning, he found two Bars of his Cellar-window cut, the Cellar-door which was bolted and locked with a Padlock broken, and his Goods ſtolen, that thereupon he went and acquainted *Jonathan Wild*, telling him he ſuſpected *John Sheppard*, who thereupon in a little time procur'd *Jo. Sheppard* and the Priſoner *Joſeph Blake* alias *Bleuſkin* to be apprehended; that *Sheppard* declared to him, after his being apprehended, that the Priſoner was with him in breaking and robbing his Houſe, and that afterwards *William Field* came in as a voluntary Evidence againſt *John Sheppard*, and the Priſoner at the Bar.

Field depoſed, That he was not well acquainted with *John Sheppard*, having only ſeen him two or three times as he came to the Priſoner, who lodged in *Field*'s Houſe, and that the Priſoner asked him to go out with him to rob Mr. *Kneebone*, but he refuſing to expoſe himſelf to any Danger, ſaying, he did

did not know the House, the Prisoner said neither did he, but *John Shepherd* knew it, and would undertake to the doing of it himself, that thereupon they went from his House in the *Mint*, and crossed the Water at *Lambeth*, and went to *Sheppard*'s Lodging at *Westminster*, and having spent the Time together from Three in the Afternoon, till about Twelve o'Clock at Night, they went to the Prosecutor's House, and *John Sheppard* broke open the House, taking out the Bars of the Cellar-Window, which he said he cut a Month or more before, that he had provided himself with a Tinder-Box and its Appurtenances, and he gave the Prisoner Money to buy a Wax-Candle, that *Sheppard* opened the back Door, he standing to look out, they went in, and each of them carried away his Burden of Goods: Part of the Broad Cloath was pawned, the Prisoner going and standing at some small Distance, while he himself pawned it, and the Cloth was found where pawned, and produced in Court.

Abraham Mendez deposed, that he going with Mr. *Wild* to bring the Prisoner to *Newgate*, Mr. *Wild* coming by the Prosecutor's House, shew'd it to the Prisoner, who reply'd, Mr. *Wild*, say no more of it, I know I am a dead Man, but what I fear is, after I am dead, I shall be carried to the *Surgeons-Hall*, and *Anatomiz'd*. To which Mr. *Wild* replied, he would take care he should not, for he would give him a Coffin. *Quilt Arnold* depos'd, That he went with the former Evidence Mr. *Wild*, to apprehend the Prisoner, and he himself going to his Chamber, bid him open the Door, but he swearing he would not do it, he burst the Door open, and he having a Penknife drawn, swore he would kill any any Body that came in; that he reply'd it was him, and that Mr. *Wild* was not far off, saying, throw down your Penknife, or I will chop of your Arm; and upon this, he threw down the Knife, and they

apprehended him, and he did hear Mr. *Wild* ſay to the Priſoner. I will give you a Coffin.

The Priſoner deny'd the Fact, or having any Acquaintance with *William Field* the Evidence, but this was proved beyond Contradiction, he then proceeded to object againſt the Credibility of the Evidence, but had no legal Objection to offer; he then endeavoured to colour his reſiſting *Quilt Arnold* with his Penknife, he ſuppoſing him to be a Bayliff coming to arreſt him. And having no further Defence to make, the Jury found him guilty of the Indictments.

He then proceeded to tell the Court, that on *Wedneſday* Morning laſt, *Jonathan Wild* ſaid to *Simon Jacobs*, I believe you will not bring forty Pounds this time, I wiſh *Joe* was in your Caſe, I am afraid he is a dead Man, but I will do my Endeavour to bring you off as a ſingle Felon.

But ſpeaking to him, this Priſoner, ſaid, I believe you muſt die, I'll ſend you a good Book or two, and you ſhall not be Anatomized, I will provide you a Coffin. This is the Account as he gave of the Diſcourſe between Mr. *Wild* and himſelf, but he did not proceed to tell the Court, that he had cut *Jonathan*'s Throat, no not a Word of that, for he knew *Jonathan's* Intereſt at that time of Day was ſo ſtrong, that it did not ſignify what he could ſay againſt him; yet to be ſure the Reaſon why he attempted to do it was, becauſe he thought he had as much a Right to the Favour of the Court as *Symon Jacobs*, who had been an old Offender as well as he, altho' he happen'd to ſtand better in *Jonathan*'s good Grace at that time of Day then he did, having lately come down pretty handſomely to *Jonathan*'s Lady to help to buy her new Rigging to go to a Chriſtening at Church; and it happened at that time not to be upon *Bleuskin*, who knew the *Lady* as well as the beſt of them.

But

But ſince he muſt die, he judged it the beſt way to rid the World of that Rogue, who had done ſo much Miſchief to Mankind, by corrupting and betraying his Fellow Creatures. Which if he had done effectually he uſed to ſay, he did not doubt, but it would make an Attonement for all his former Tranſgreſſions, being often heard with a ſmiling Countenance to ſay, *The Rogue* Wild *has done much more Miſchief than Good:* And I do'nt Queſtion e're long, but his Roguery will be found out, and his Fate overtake him as well as mine hath done me.

There were ſeven condemned with *Blake* this Seſſions, being the 14th of *October*, in the Year of our Lord 1724. *viz. Julian* a Black, for feloniouſly ſtealing twenty Guineas, and burning the Houſe of Mrs. *Elizabeth Turner* his Miſtreſs on the 16th of *Auguſt* laſt. *Joſeph Blake* alias *Bleuskin* for robbing Mr. *Kneenbone*, along with *John Sheppard*, of Cloath to a great Value. *Thomas Bruſſe* for ſtealing a Brown Mare from *William Sneeth*, the twenty-fifth of *Auguſt* laſt. *Moſes Orzeum* alias *Sowzeman* a *German*, for ſtealing 109 Guineas, 16 Moidores, one four Piſtol-Piece, 20 Broad Pieces, from *William Farmer* and *William Clement* on the 24th of *Auguſt* laſt. *Abraham Deval* for counterfeiting a Certificate N° 72. in 68th Courſe of Payment for 52 Pounds and 12 Shillings, for the 7 Blank Lottery Tickets in the Lottery 1723. *Katherine Knox* for ſtealing a Bible, and *William Groves* for breaking the Dwelling-houſe of *William Tomlyn*, and ſtealing from thence 25 Guineas the 17th of *July* laſt.

The Jury deſired the Favour of the Court for *William Groves*, and the Sentence of *Lewis Huſſar* was reſpited till the 30th of *November*. So that there were only three hanged on *Wedneſday* the 11th of *November* 1724. *Julian* a Black Boy from

India, *Abraham Deval*, and *Joſeph Blake* alias *Bleuskin*.

Blake ſeem'd a bold reſolute Fellow, who altho he had no great Share of Learning, yet he had a great deal of Wit, and was capable of any Undertaking, when at Liberty, but in the Condemn'd Hold he did not ſhew a Concern agreeable to his Condition; yet the *Ordinary* obſerved that he made the Reſponſes regularly at Chapel, and never appeared otherwiſe than ſerious before him. When he was asked, if he was prompted by any Perſon to commit the Violence upon Mr. *Jonathan Wild*, as the Reverend Mr. *Purney* the *Ordinary* vouchſafes to call him; who, he ſaith, had been a great Benefactor to *Bleuskin*, and ſo he was, for he brought him to be hanged, and alſo had before paid for the Healing of his Wounds about two Years ago, and allowed him Money at the *Compter after he betrayed him there*, and promiſed him good Books, a Coffin and a *Halter*. He anſwered that no Body prompted him to that Aſſault but God Almighty, for a ſudden Thought that Moment did enter into his Mind, ſeeing the Fellow's Falſhood and Ingratitude, or elſe he ſhould have provided a better Knife, which would have cut of a Head directly; adding, that he ſo acted, becauſe *Jonathan Wild* as he thought, could have obtained Tranſportation for him, as one Man was condemned for the ſame Offence before.

As his Death approached, his Concern did not encreaſe, but rather abated, and he appeared more thoughtleſs, nay, he often ſaid, that nothing troubled him, but that he had not cut *Jonathan Wild's Head off*. However, it was thought he was all this while a conſulting with his Companions, Ways and Means to make his Eſcape, even to the very Day of his being executed; when ſome People pretend to ſay that he was diſguiſed in Liquor and faultred

faultered in his Speech at *Tyburn*, where he had a Mind to take a handſome Farewell of the World in a civil Manner. But the *Ordinary* could perceive no ſuch thing, altho' he might drink ever ſo often by the way, yet at the very Sight of *Tyburn* he grew ſober, and was ſenſible of the Crime of cutting *Jonathan*'s Throat, which to the very laſt he ſaid was not a Fault, but his not doing of it was, for which he ſhed Tears in the Morning at *Chapel*, and ſhewed the ſame Regret immediately before his Death; but it was not obſerved that he much concerned himſelf about the many Robberies he had committed, only deſired the *Ordinary*, and all good People to join with him in Prayers, that *Jonathan* might follow him very ſoon, which all the Congregation very readily agreed to, except the Parſon and *Jack Ketch*, who were about to offer their Reaſons: But he ſwore this was no Time to diſpute, and therefore bid *Jack Ketch* do his Buſineſs quickly, or he would knock him down; which being done, the Reverend Mr. *Purney* called *Jonathan* into his Coach, and adviſed him to leave of ſuch evil Company, *I—d*, ſaith *Wild*, is *the Man mad, What Occaſion would there then be for an Ordinary.*

Thus ended the Life of *Bleuskin*, who had been an old Offender, as *John Sheppard* declared to the laſt, and had hanged four Men to ſave himſelf, who altho' he was a well ſet Man and capable to undertake any thing, yet he ſaid he was a Coward in the Bottom, and wanted Reſolution to run any Hazards or Dangers; he always ſneak'd off, when he found there was like to be any Reſiſtance, and lov'd dearly to keep himſelf in a whole Skin, let who would ſuffer, he ſav'd himſelf; and altho' ſome may ſay, that he ſhewed Courage in ſome of his Actions, and eſpecially in attempting to cut *Jonathan Wild*'s Throat, yet that very Act was the Reſult of Cow-

ardice, and, the Fear of Death, or elſe he would have provided himſelf with a better Kniſe before he had gone about to do it. Once he and *John Sheppard* rid out to *Endfield-Chace*, where they met with a Coach with four young Ladies in it, with their Gold Watches, Tweezar Caſes, &c. and two Footmen behind, whom *Sheppard* propoſed to rob, but *Bleuskin* durſt not join with him, and pretended his Horſe was Lame, and would not follow. In ſhort he was a meer Dunghill, if it be true as *Sheppard* ſaid, and would have died unthought of, and unpitied, had he not cut *Jonathan*'s Throat, which for want of Courage he did by halves.

Nevertheleſs, let *Jack Sheppard* ſay what he will of *Bleuskin*'s Cowardiſe or want of Reſolution, it is certain he was once as bold a Rogue as any about Town, being concerned in more Robberies than any of them, by which he had once got ſo much Money, that it was in his Mind to rebuild *Parkers-lane*, purely to root out thoſe Vermin called Thieves and Whores, who cohabit there: But alas! ſo frail is Human Nature in the midſt of his Reſolution of leaving off Thieving, he got acquainted with *Molhony* and *Carrick*, who carried him to the Gaming-Tables, where he loſt all his Money, and afterwards not *Coming down* to *Jonathan Wild* as uſual, he incurred his Diſpleaſure; which intimidated him in many of his Actions, knowing that *Jonathan* had at that Time of Day a mighty Influence over Life and Death, and that he never wanted Witneſſes to hang a Man when he had a Mind to it, which made him often ſay, *The greater Rogue the greater Luck.*

THE

JOHN SHEPPARD.

THE LIFE OF John Sheppard.

JOHN SHEPPARD was born in the Parish of *Stepney* near *London*, in the Year 1702, his Father was a Carpenter, and look'd upon by his Neighbours to be an honest industrious Man; but he dying, and leaving the Widow with three small Children to look after, she made Friends, and got her Son *John* admitted a Scholar at the Work House in *Bishopsgate-street*, where he continued till he was fit to be put out Apprentice, when his Mother who was a poor industrious Woman, apply'd her self to Mr. *William Kneebone* a Woollen-draper, at the *Angel* over-against the new Church in the *Strand*, with whom she then lived as a Servant, who observing the Boy very

forward with his Pen, and at every Thing he was put to, agreed with Mr. *Owen Wood*, a Carpenter in *Drury-lane* to take him Apprentice for ſeven Years, on Condition that Mr. *Wood* ſhould do the Carpenter's Work at Mr. *Keenbone*'s Country Seat at *Hampſtead*, which was then a Repairing. He was bound the 2d of *April* 1717, and for four Years of his Time, prov'd a very orderly Servant, minding his Buſineſs very well, and was ſo expert, that he became perfect Maſter of it in that Time, which made his Maſter grant him the greater Liberty in ſpare Hours, which he uſed to ſay, he often look'd upon to be the Cauſe of all his Misfortunes, for if his Maſter had kept him cloſer to Buſineſs, he had never had an Opportunity to have fallen into that ill Company he did, which inſenſibly led him on from one Evil to another, till at length there was no Villainy but his enterpriſing *Genius* was capable to undertake.

The firſt Step to his Ruin, was going along with ſome young People to ſee an old Neighbour, who had taken a Publick-Houſe in *Newtoners-lane*, which being a Houſe of ill Repute, and frequented by looſe and diſorderly Perſons, he became acquainted there with one of the moſt vile *Proſtitutes* of the *Hundreds* whoſe Name is *Elizabeth Lion*, but more commonly called *Edgworth Beſs*, with whom he contracted ſuch a Familiarity, that he afterwards ſtuck at nothing, which ſuch a deſigning Strumpet could put him upon, ſhe telling him ſhe wanted Money to pay a Bayliff, he ſtole two Silver Spoons from the *Rummer* Tavern at *Charing-Croſs*, where he was at work, which he gave to her, and when ſhe had once got him in, ſhe never left him, till ſhe brought him to his fatal End. But her Wants were ſoon as great as before, and nothing would ſerve her, but the next Houſe he went to work at, he muſt rob, or elſe he muſt expect to hear of the

Spoons

Spoons, which made *Sheppard* very uneaſy at firſt; but not knowing how to get rid of her, (for you muſt note a Whore ſticks as cloſe at Birdlime to a Man, while he has any Thing to give her) he promiſed her he would ſee what he could do, and being then about a Job at Mr. *Bains*'s a Piece-broker in *Whitecroſs-Yard*, he ſtole a Roll of Fuſtian of about twenty four Yards, from amongſt many others, which Mr. *Bains* not miſſing, he heard no more of it at that Time; but that would not ſatisfy *Beſs*; ſhe was ſure he could take more than that, and not be ſuſpected if he had a Mind; and therefore they agreed to have the other Bout with Mr. *Bains*, which he did on the firſt of *Auguſt* following; when about the middle of the Night, he took up the Wooden Bars over the Cellar Windows, and entered and carried off Goods to the Value of fourteen Pounds, and ſeven Shillings in Money out of the *Till*; and coming in the Morning to work, he found Mr. *Bains* and his Wife in the utmoſt Confuſion about the Loſs of their Money and Goods, not knowing who to charge the Robbery upon, unleſs a poor Woman that lay in the Houſe, becauſe ſeemed to be broken, he having nail'd the Wooden Bars, through which he entered down, again. *Jack*, like an old Practitioner, ſeemed to condole with them for their Loſs, and wondered how it could be, tho' never a Word of himſelf, tho' he was ſomewhat ſorry, that the poor Woman ſhould bear the Blame of what he knew himſelf guilty.' But here followed the Misfortune, *Sheppard* having got this Money, laid out many Nights, which gave great Uneaſineſs to his Maſters, and *Beſs* and *He* were as publickly together as if they had been Husband and Wife; notwithſtanding his Maſter and Miſtreſs often adviſed him to forſake that lewd Woman's Company, which they told him would one Day bring him to the Gallows, but all to no Purpoſe, it

made him rather the worſe, he wanted more Liberty, and pretended his Maſter's Way of Jobbing up and down would never teach him his Trade, and therefore he muſt keep Company with them that could. And to lying out Night after Night, he one Time left his Trunk open, when his Fellow'Prentice told his Maſter *Wood*, he obſerved Fuſtian in *Sheppard*'s Trunk, which he having Notice of, broke through a Neighbour's Houſe into his Maſter's, and carried the Fuſtian off to prevent a Diſcovery; but this would not do, the Maſter ſent Mr. *Bains* Word of what had happened, and that he ſuſpected his Man *Sheppard*, who being about to take him up, he went to Mr. *Bains* and bullied him, but that not doing, he owned he had a Piece of Fuſtian which his Mother had bought in *Spittle-Fields*, which ſhe, being willing to skreen her Son, confirm'd, altho' that Weaver could never be found out, nor the Truth of this Robbery diſcovered, till after his laſt Confinement in *Newgate*, which he confeſt to Mr. *Bains* when he went to ſee him, to take off, as he ſaid, the Scandal from the Woman Lodger, who till then was ſuſpected of the Robbery.

He ſoon after left his Mother, and got acquainted with ſome of the moſt notorious Houſebreakers about Town, ſuch as *Joſeph Blake*, alias *Bleuskin*, *Doleing*, *Field*, *Sykes*, alias *Hell* and *Fury*, and for Conveniency takes a Lodging at Mr. *Charles*'s in *May-Fair* at the End of *Picadilly*, who having an Occaſion for ſome Repairs to be made about his Houſe, deſired the Maſter Carpenter to employ him, as being a civil Fellow, and one that lodged with him, which the Carpenter very willingly agreed to, and he proving a good Hand, allowed him many Liberties, which *Sheppard* requited him for, by robbing him of ſeven Pounds ten Shillings in Money, five large Silver Spoons, ſix Forks ditto, four Tea-Spoons, ſix Gold Rings, a Cypher-Ring, four Suits of wearing Apparel

parel, and Linnen to a considerable Value; and then moves his Quarters towards *Clare-Market*, where he robs the House of Mrs. *Cook* a Linnen-draper in *Clare-Street*, to the Value of about Sixty Pounds, along with his Brother *Thomas* and *Edgeworth Bess*.

About a Week after, they broke open the House of Mr. *Phillips* in *Drury-Lane*, and stole from Mrs. *Kenrick* who rents the Shop, some few Goods, but of no Value; soon after his Brother *Thomas* was taken and committed to *Newgate*, where in hopes of procuring Favour, he impeached his Brother *John* and *Edgeworth Bess*, but it had like to have proved ineffectual, because they play'd least in Sight, had not *James Sykes* alias *Hell* and *Fury* accidentally met with *John Sheppard* in the Streets, whom he invited to go along with him to one *Redgate*'s a Victualler near the *Seven Dials* to play a Game at Skittles with him, which being agreed to, *Sykes* privately sent for a Constable, and charged *Sheppard* with the two Robberies before mentioned: Upon which he was carried before Justice *Parry*, who ordered him to St. *Giles's Round House* till the next Morning, in order to a further Examination, where he was locked up for the better Security of his Person in the Garret, yet he nevertheless in less than four Hours gave them the Slip, by the help of an old Razor he had in his Pocket, and part of an old Chair which he found in the Room, with which he made a Passage through the Ceiling, and untiled the Top of the House, and with the help of a Sheet and Blanket which he had tied together, let himself down into the *Church-Yard*, and then climbing over the Wall, made his Escape.

A little after, *John Sheppard* passing through *Leicester-Fields* in the Dusk of the Evening along with one *Benson*, observing a Gentleman charging a Woman with an Endeavouring to steal his Watch,

which

which occaſioned a Mob to riſe about them, *Benſon* ſlipt in amongſt them, and in good earneſt pick-ed the Gentleman's Pocket of the Watch; which the Gentleman only ſeared was deſigned to be done be-fore, and ſo they both made the beſt of their Way out of the Crowd: But upon crying ſtop *Thief*, *Sheppard* was ſeized by a Serjeant of the Guards at *Leiceſter* Houſe, where *Edgeworth Beſs* came to vi-ſit him, who was alſo ſecured, and both of them carried to St. *Anne*'s Round-houſe, and kept in ſafe Cuſtody till next Morning, when being brought before Juſtice *Walter*, they were charged by Mr. *Cook* and Mr. *Phillips* with the Felony and Burglary before mentioned, for which they had like to have been committed to *Newgate*, but *Sheppard* in hopes of a more favourable Treatment, made large Promiſes of diſcovering his Confederates; which the Juſtice believing might be of publick Service, and that he was ſincere in what he ſaid, for the preſent only or-dered him to *New Priſon*; but upon this Account, that if he did not make an ample Diſcovery between that and next Seſſions, he ſhould certainly go to *New-gate* and be tried for his Life.

As *Edgeworth Beſs* was always looked upon to be the Wife of *John Sheppard*; they were both locked up in a ſtrong Room call'd the *Newgate Ward*, where he was loaded with a Pair of double Links, and Baſils of about Fifteen Pounds Weight, where he meditated more how he might make his Eſcape than any Diſcovery, knowing that he had promiſed more than he was able to perform. And having the Privilege of his Friends to come to ſee him, they furniſhed him with Impliments proper to his Deſign, upon which he goes to Work, and in four Days Time, which was on the 25th of *May*, being *Whitſon-Monday* at two a Clock in the Morning, he had compleated a large Breach in the Wall, and ſawed off his Fetters, having cut off an Iron Bar

from

from the Window, and taking out a Poſt of ſtrong Oak about nine Inches thick, by boring it through in many Places, but they had ſtill Twenty-five Foot to deſcend from the Ground, which would have damped the Spirit of any Body; but *John Sheppard*, who as will appear by the following Hiſtory, was able to extricate himſelf out of thoſe Difficulties, that none but himſelf could conceive were poſſibly to be done: For ſeeing it was impoſſible for either of them to drop down, he faſtened a Sheet and Blanket to the Bars, and makes *Edgeworth Beſs* ſtrip off her Gown and Petticoat, he let her down firſt, though he could not get her thro' the Breach without a great deal of Trouble; but when that was done, ſhe obſerving his Directions was ſoon down, and he after her with a great deal of Joy: But notwithſtanding their Succeſs thus far they had many Difficulties ſtill to encounter with for they were only got out of one Priſon into another, *New-Priſon* and *Clarkenwell Bridewell* lying contiguous to one another, and they had got into the Yard of the latter, and a Wall of Twenty-two Foot high to Scale before they could get out of that Priſon, which put *Sheppard* upon further Thoughts how to ſurmount this unforeſeen Difficulty, who not ſtartled at all, pulls out his Gimblets, and fixes them in the Wall at proper Diſtances, which ſerved as a ſcaling Ladder, by which he and his Miſtreſs aſcended, and thereby made their Eſcapes. The Keepers and Priſoners of both Places being aſleep in their Beds, ſo that in leſs than ten Minutes, they both got over the Wall, which is allowed by all the Goal-Keepers in *London* to be ſuch an Eſcape as was never made before, and yet it is nothing to the ſurprizing Adventures which follow; who notwithſtanding the apparent Danger of ever appearing amongſt his Acquaintances, he goes the very ſame Night to pay a Viſit to his old Aſſociates *Anthony Lamb*,

Lamb and *Charles Grace*, why laying their Heads together form'd a Deſign to rob Mr. *Barton* a Maſter *Taylor* (who lodged with Mr. *Carter*, Uncle as well as Maſter to *Anthony Lamb*) which they perfected that Night, for *Lamb* conveighing *Sheppard* and *Grace* into the Houſe, well provided with Inſtruments and Piſtols, *Sheppard* marches directly to Mr. *Barton*'s Chamber-door, and with his uſual Dexterity breaks it open, where planting *Grace* at the Bedſide, with Orders to Fire in caſe of any Noiſe or Reſiſtance, he fell a Ranſacking the Trunks and Boxes for Taylors Cabbage, where he found to his agreeable Surprize in Notes, Bonds, Guineas, Cloaths made and unmade to the Value of Three Hundred Pounds, which *Sheppard* and *Grace* having carried off, *Lamb* leaves the Street door open, and ſteals to Bed as an Innocent *Lamb* that knew nothing of the Matter. But one of the Neighbours happening to riſe ſooner than uſual, obſerving the Door wide open, and no Body ſtirring, preſently alarms the Houſe, when Mr. *Barton* jumping out of his Bed, ſoon found who had been there, whereupon running up to *Lamb*'s Chamber, whom he before had Suſpicion of on Account of his keeping looſe Company, he awakes him, who lay ſnoring as if he was dead, when he charged him directly with the Fact, who after many frivolous Pretences cried *Peccavi*, and declared his Accomplices, who were to cunning to let him know where to find them, upon which *Lamb* was immediately committed to *Newgate*, and afterwards tried at the *Old-Bayley*; but Mr. *Barton* in Compaſſion to his Youth, and at the Requeſt of his Friends, was ſo favourable in his Proſecution, that he ſpared his Life, and contented himſelf with having him tranſported.

In three Days after, Mr. *Kneebone* had private Notice of a Deſign upon his Houſe that Night, who took all poſſibly Care to receive them; but they

not

not coming according to their Appointment, he thought it was only an Amuſement, and indeed it proved ſo, for in three Weeks after, *John Sheppard* and *Joſeph Blake* broke into his Houſe through the Cellar Window, *Sheppard* having been near a Fortnight at Times before, a cutting the two Oak Bars that went over the Back-part of his Cellar into *Drury-lane*, from whence they took 108 Yards of Cloth value fifty Pounds, and carried it to *Sheppard*'s Warehouſe at *Weſtminſter Horſe-ferry*, which he had hired for ſuch Purpoſes. Both of them proteſting that *William Field* knew nothing of the Matter, till they afterwards met him at *Bleuskin* Mother's in *Roſemary-lane*, with whom *Field* then lodg'd, and they knowing him to be one of them, told him the Manner of the Robbery, and let him into the Secret where the Goods were, he pretending to buy them, but he thought to take them without Money, for next Time they went, they found the Warehouſe broke open, and the Cloth gone, but that they might not go without their Reward for it, he took care to hang them, not doubting then to have a good Bargain of it, for he thereby not only came into the Reward, but got clear of all Robberies formerly committed: So uncertain is the Life of a Thief, that he doth not know a Friend from an Enemy, and very often the Fellow that deludes him in the Fact, doth it with no other View than to hang his Companion to ſave himſelf.

That Day Sevennight *Sheppard* and *Bleuskin* went to take an airing towards *Hampſtead*, where meeting with no Game worth looking after, they reſolved to ſeize upon the firſt Prize they met, be it good or bad, where ſeeing the Stage-Coach, they made up and found but one Woman in it, who proved to be a Lady's Servant, from whom they took half a Crown, being all ſhe had, and told her the Coachman muſt truſt for his Fair, and be glad he came off

ſo

ſo well; and the next Day they robbed one *Pargiter* of three Shillings, who being unwilling to part with his Money without Principle or Intereſt, ſwore againſt the next Men they met with, who happened to be two Brothers who ſerved in the Army, and proved to be Innocent of the Fact; and one of 'em was a Man of Literature, but broke his Heart with the Thoughts of being charged wrongfully, and dy'd ſoon after his Releaſement, although they were both honourably acquitted.

Mr. *Kneebone* being very much troubled about his Loſs, Adverties his Loſſes in moſt of the *News-Papers*, and applies to *Jonathan Wild*, who on the 22d of *July* takes *Edgeworth Beſs* in a Brandy-Shop near *Temple-bar*, ſhe in a Fright and Surprize diſcovered where her Accomplice *Sheppard* was, and he the next Day was apprehended at *Bleuskin*'s Mother's near *Roſemary-Lane*, by *Quilt Arnold* a Servant of *Jonathan*'s, but *Sheppard* did not tamely reſign, for he clapt a loaded Piſtol to *Quilt Arnold*'s Breaſt, and attempted to ſhoot him, which not going off, he was taken and committed to *New-Priſon*, and put into the Dungeon, and the next Day he was carried before Juſtice *Blackerby*, before whom upon Examination he confeſſed Three Robberies on the Highway, as alſo the robbing Mr. *Bains*, Mr. *Barton*, Mr *Kneebone*, for which he was committed to *Newgate*. And at the Seſſions of *Oyer* and *Terminer*, and Goal Delivery holden at the *Old-Bayly*, on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of *Auguſt* 1724, he was tried upon three ſeveral Indictments, two of which he was acquitted of for want of ſufficient Evidence againſt him, but the laſt Indictment being fully proved againſt him, the Jury found him Guilty, and accordingly Sentence of Death was pronounced upon him. He made but a very weak Defence, objecting only againſt the Evidence of *William Field*, as being an old Offender, a

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frequent Attender at the Bar, a ſubtle Seducer of unwary Youth like himſelf, and an Encourager of all the fatal Practices that procure their Ruin; but that not doing, he begged earneſtly to be tranſported to any part of the *Weſt-Indies*, and pleaded Youth and Ignorance, as the Motives which had precipitated him into the Guilt; but the Court was deaf to his Importunities, knowing him to be a notorious Offender, and would not hear him, but remanded to the *Condemn'd Hold*, where were nine more under his unhappy Circumſtances.

The Court being at *Windſor*, the Warrant was not ſent down for the Execution of the Malefactors condemn'd the Seſſions before, in which favourable Interval *James Harman*, *Lumly Davis*, and *John Sheppard*, conſulted how they ſhould make their Eſcapes, and provided themſelves with proper Inſtruments to Effect it, but *Harman* and *Davis* having Promiſes of Favour from great Perſons, dropt their Enterprize. But alas! they found to their Coſt, their building on great Men's Promiſes, was raiſing Caſtles in the Air, for their Fate was ſealed and the Dead Warrant come down, ſo that they prepared to die the next Day, which accordingly they did. But before they went up to Chapel, *Davis* gave *Sheppard* the Inſtrument by which he accompliſhed his Releaſe, who every Day expecting a Warrant for himſelf, thought it high Time to fall to Work, and taking the Advantage of the Hurry to the Priſon, whilſt the other two were having their Fetters taken off, in order for their Execution, he went to Work, and dexterouſly ſawed off part of the Iron-ſpike over the Hatch of the *Condemned-Hold*, and on *Saturday* he almoſt finiſhed it, but did nothing on *Sunday*, by reaſon of the great Number of People in the Lodge. On *Monday* Morning juſt after the Dead Warrant came to *Newgate*, for the Execution of him and two others

others on the *Friday* following, a Friend came to viſit him, that knew nothing of the Scheme he had laid for his Deliverance, and adviſed him to think of his latter End, for the Time of his Execution would certainly be the next *Friday*; to whom *Sheppard* anſwered, *Yes ſo my great Lord and Maſter ſays, but by G —— I'll do my Endeavours to make him a falſe Prophet.* And he was as good as his Word, for that very Day between five and ſix in the Evening, he deſired the other Priſoners except *Stephen Fowles*, to remain above, while he ſaid ſomething to his Friends at the Door, which they not dreaming what he was about, complied with, when he got the Spikes aſunder, and by the Aſſiſtance of *Fowles* on the Inſide, and *Edgeworth Beſs* and her Confident on the Outſide, he was conveyed with his Heels fore-moſt through the *Little-Eaſe*, which was but eight Inches and an half one way, and nine the other, and ſo like *Fortunatus* with his inviſible Cap, bruſhed thro' the Crowd, and made his Eſcape.

Having thus got clear, he took Coach to *Blackfryars-ſtairs*, where *Edgeworth Beſs* met him, where they took a Boat and went directly to *Weſtminſter Horſe-Ferry*, and houſed at the *White Heart*, where after a few Healths and Congratulations for his luckly Deliverance, they adjourned to a more ſecure Place in *Holbourn*, where by the help of a Saw he got rid of his Fetters, and then with his Mate he took Coach and went into *Spittle-fields*, where they lay together, and drowned in ſotteſt Pleaſures, the Remembrance of their paſt Danger.

In the mean time, the Keepers at *Newgate* were in the utmoſt Confuſion, and did not know which way to go in Purſuit of him, three of them being at the further End of the Lodge a talking of him at the very time he gave them the Go-bye, and altho' they diſperſed themſelves to ſeveral Parts of the

Town

Town, yet they could hear nothing of him, for he ſtayed not long in a Place, but ſending for *William Page*, a Butcher's Son in *Clare-Market*, the next Day they conſulted what to do, and *Page* aſſuring him the Town was too hot to hold him at preſent, ſo many *Blood-hounds* being in Purſuit of him, they agreed to go to *Warnden* in *Northamptonſhire*, where *Page* had Relations whom he was ſure would entertain them till the Storm was blown over.

In the mean time, *Anthony Lamb*, who lay under Sentence of Tranſportation, ſends a Letter to Mr. *Barton*, whom he had robbed along with *Bleuskin* and *Sheppard*, in the latter's Name, hoping thereby to obtain his Releaſement, which was as follows:

Mr. Barton.

THIS *is to let you know, that with hard Shifts I have got my Liberty ever ſince laſt Night, the Goal not being faſt enough for me, nor the Irons which I had on my Legs, was not big enough for me, more than the reſt of the Priſoners, I play'd at Rob-Thief with the Goal, which has not been for theſe many Years; for I have brought my ſelf and my Irons out of the Condemned-Hold, I being to die as next* Friday, *I thought it my beſt way to make off before the Time came, which no Body can blame me for it, therefore I beg the Favour of you to get my Partner off, that is,* Anthony Lamb, *for fear he ſhould play at* Rob-Thief *too, as well as I, and ſhould he be taken, Sorrow will come on it on both Sides, and if he don't get out, I am obliged to revenge his Cauſe, as well as tho' he was in Preſence: Conſider, you have been the Author of it, nr elſe he would have been diſcharged laſt Seſſions. Come, conſider. he is but a young Man, and, I believe, you will find the Benefit*

of

of it in your Mind, if you help him off from Tranſportation, *and in ſo doing, you will oblige me,*

John Sheppard.

So no more at preſent, but I beg you will ſend an Anſwer to A Lamb, *and then by ſome Means or other I may hear how Stories go.*

But this would not do, Mr. *Barton* was not to be affrighted ſo, but went immediately to *Newgate*, and there along with Mr. *Rouſe* interrogated *Lamb*, whether he knew any thing of the ſending the foregoing Letter, who ſtifly denied it; but it plainly proved otherwiſe, and inſtead of being diſcharged, he got himſelf fetter'd to the Hour of his Tranſportation, which on the Account of his Youth he was diſpenſed with before.

But to return to *Jack Sheppard* and his Friend *Page*, who by this time were got into the Country, which did by no means agree with them, although *Page*'s Relations were very kind to them according to their Ability; but Country Fare would not go down with them, they wanted a *Tit Bit*, and a *Whore*, and therefore at all Hazards reſolved to return to *London*, where they arrived the 8th of *September*; but meeting with a Milkman's Son in *Drury-Lane*, at *Iſlington*, whom they ſtrictly charged him not to take any Notice he had ſeen them, which he promiſed to comply with; yet he no ſooner got Home but he told it to all he met. From thence they went to a Brandy-ſhop in *Biſhopſgate-ſtreet*, where a Perſon accidentally coming in, whiſper'd *Sheppard* in the Ear, and adviſ'd him to be gone, which they did immediately, and it being now dark, they reſolv'd to pay a Viſit to ſome of their Acquaintance in and about *Drury-lane*, when coming through *Fleetſtreet*, they obſerved Mr. *Martin*'s a *Watchmaker*'s-Shop to be open, and only a little

little Boy in it, which they judged a lucky Opportunity to *ſtrike*, when after a ſmall Conſultation, *Page* goes into the Shop and asks, whether one Mr. *Taylor* did not lodge there, or if he knew where he did? Who being told no, he come out and acquaints his Companion how the Land lay, who planting *Page* at a proper Diſtance, he fixes a Nail piercer to the Poſt of the Door, and takes a Piece of Packthread out of his Pocket, and ties the Door up, and then breaking a Pane of Glaſs, takes three Watches out of the Window and walks off, the Boy ſeeing him all the while, but was not able to get out after him.

Fluſh'd with this Succeſs, they went to the *Cock* and *Pye* to waſh down Sorrow, where they met with a Barber an old Acquaintance of theirs, who informed them of what the Milkman had ſaid, and that it might be of ill Conſequence, if they did not take care; which ſo nettled *Sheppard*, that he reſolv'd to be even with him, and goes to his Cellar, where he takes the Door off the Hinges, and throws it down upon his Pans full of Milk, which ſo affrighted the Milkman, that he thought the Devil had been a coming, ſo they walked off, and met about Ten a Clock with one *Ireton* a Sheriff's Officer, who ſeiz'd *Page* but *Sheppard* getting off, he let *Page* go, having nothing to ſay againſt him.

Sheppard by this found the Town too hot for him, and knowing that *Ireton* would inform, he judged it meet to retire with his Friend *Page* once more into the Country, but being ſhort of Money, they thought it not unadviſable to pawn one of the Watches, which *Page* did for a Guinea and a half, and then they marched towards *Finchley*: But the Noiſe of *Sheppard* being about the Town had reach'd the Keeper's Ears by many, which made them diſperſe themſelves in Parties every where to retake the Bird that had broke his Cage; and having

having Intelligence that he flew about *Finchley Common*, they ſent out a ſtrong Party of Horſe and Foot, and a Coach and Four to bring him in State to his Caſtle; where they had not long been, but they ſpied at a Diſtance two Perſons trampouſing along the Common in Butcher's Frocks with white Aprons; and *Sheppard* was as watchful as they; for ſeeing *Langley*, one of the Turnkeys, ride faſt towards them, he told *Page*, *he ſaw a Stag*, upon which they made to a Foot-path, to prevent his riding after them, but this did not avail much; for *Page* being hindermoſt, Mr. *Langley* came up with him, and diſmounted with Piſtol in Hand, commanding *Page* to throw up his Arms, which he immediately did, and ſurrender himſelf, begging for Mercy; he asked *Laugley* if he would pleaſe to *Fisk* him, that is, to ſearch him all over, which Mr. *Langley* thought proper to do; but he found nothing upon him but a *Dutchman's Snicker-ſnee*, and a File, which ſecuring, he obliged him to attend him like a Priſoner of War at his Horſe's Heels, and aſſiſt him in the Purſuit of his Companion, whom they found in an old Stable belonging to a Farm-houſe. The Purſuit was cloſe, the Houſe beſet, and a Girl eſpying his Feet, as he laid hid in the Corner of the Stable, diſcovered him. Whom Mr. *Auſtin* a Turnkey firſt attacked, *Langley* ſeconded, and his old Friend *Ireton* the Officer aſſiſted them, which *Jack Sheppard* perceiving he immedialy ſubmitted, praying they would not abuſe him, but uſe him civilly, which they aſſured him they would, but telling him he could not take it amiſs to be *fisk'd*; they found upon him a broad Knife, and two Watches, one under each Arm-pit, which he had ſtolen from Mr. *Martin*, and then taking them to a little Ale-houſe on the Common, they cracked a Pot together, as if there had been no Difference, where there happened to be this Inſcription

ſcription under the Sign, *We have brought our Hogs to a fair Market*, which *Jack Sheppard* ſwore he took for an ill *Omen*, and deſired to go to another Houſe, where a Coach and four waited to convey them to *Newgate*, where they got ſafe about Two in the Afternoon: when *Sheppard* a ſtepping out of the Coach, endeavoured to ſpring out of his Keeper's Arms, and give them a ſecond Chaſe, but it would not do, he was clapt in the *Condemn'd-Hold*, and faſten'd to the Floor with double Fetters about his Feet, and his Friend *Page* carried before Sir *Francis Forbes*, who committed him to *Newgate* for aiding and aſſiſting *Sheppard* in his Eſcape; but it was not thought adviſeable to put them both together, leſt they ſhould contrive more Work for the Keepers.

The Town was preſently alarmed upon the Report of *Jack Sheppard* being retaken, and People flock'd from all Quarters to condole his Misfortunes, amongſt whom, ſome of them conveys a ſmall Watchmaker's File, which no Body knew better how to make uſe of than *Jack*, with which he went to work, and when any of the Keepers came to him clapt it in his Bible, which they always found in his Hand; but this was meer Hypocriſy, and only done to blind the Turnkeys, the readier to expedite his Eſcape. But the Reverend Mr. *Wagſtaff*, who attended in the room of the Ordinary, accidentally taking the Bible up to turn to ſome proper Texts of Scripture for his Inſtruction, the File dropp'd out and all was diſcovered; but *Sheppard* not in the leaſt daunted at this his firſt Attempt, was in three Days time ſupplied with two Files, a Chiſſel and a Hammer, which he concealed in the Ruſhes of an old matted Chair; but ill Fortune ſtill attending him, he was again diſcovered, but would never confeſs how he came by them, although ſome of the Keepers were of Opinion he had a Commun-

cation with his Brother *Tom*, through a Hole that led to the Room above the common Apartment, for thoſe who are ordered for Tranſportation, and therefore they thought it neceſſary to remove him from the *Condemn'd-Hold*, to a Place they call the Caſtle in the Body of the Priſon, which is far diſtant from any of his Fellow Priſoners, with two Iron Staples in the Floor, where any Body would imagine he never could get out: But he thought otherwiſe, and had a whole Fortnight to conſider of it, during which time he had Viſitors of all Sorts, and his Room ſeem'd rather a Market than a Priſon, where *Sheppard* kept up his uſual Gaiety of Temper, and took a Pride in returning ſeveral ſmart Repartees, to divert the Spectators, who being moved with Pity to ſee him ſo cloſe lock'd down, gave him a great deal of Money; but as ſoon as they were gone, *Sheppard* knew how to diſingage himſelf, and was meditating how to make his Eſcape.

One Night the Keeper coming upon him unexpectedly, found him (to his no ſmall Surprize) taking a ſerious Walk about the Room, when asking him how he got looſe, he in a careleſs manner anſwered, it was troubleſome always to be in one Poſture, and that he did it for the Eaſe of his Legs, adding, that he did it every Night, but that he hoped there was no Harm in what he had done, ſince he never did it, till after they had made the moſt of ſhewing him, and there could be no Poſſibility of his endeavouring to make his Eſcape. But this would not ſatisfy the Keeper, but taking a Candle, and ſearching the Room, he took up his old Frock which lay about the Room, and found one Side of it very ſooty; upon this calling one of the Underkeepers, he ordered him to go up the Chimney, to ſee if the Iron Bars which lay croſs it, ſtood as they ſhould, which they did, but yet they could not believe, but *Sheppard* made an Attempt, but found

found it impracticable, which he ſtifly denied: But to put it out of his Power, (as they thought) for the future, they not only Hand-cuffed him, but loaded him with new Feet-locks, and took ſuch other Precautions, that they thought he never could eſcape, unleſs he had to deal with the Devil.

The next Day the Ordinary returning out of the Country came to viſit him, who admoniſhing him to be mindful about his future State, and not to triffle away his Time, in ever thinking to make his Eſcape again, aſſuring him the few Moments of Life he would have in this World, would never balance the Torments he would meet with in the World to come, but this was to him no more than a *Wall Lecture*: However, he return'd him Thanks for his kind Admonitions, and promiſed to take his Advice.

On *Wedneſday* the 14th of *October*, the Court ſitting at the *Old-Bayly*, an Indictment was found againſt *Blake* alias *Bleuskin*, when the next Day (before he came to his Tryal) drinking with *Jonathan Wild*; as they were talking, *Blueskin* with a little claſp'd Knife cut *Wild*'s Throat, but not touching the Wind-pipe, it did not prove mortal, however it put all the *Poſſe* of *Newgate* in an Uproar, ſo that *Auſtin* who lookt after *Sheppard* went up to him with his Dinner, and took Captain *Geary*, Mr. *Gough*, and ſome others along with him, telling him if he wanted any thing more he muſt now ſpeak, for he could not come to him again till next Morning, and then examining his Hand-cuffs and Feet locks they left him; during which *Sheppard* entertained them with abundance of facetious Diſcourſe, as well as good Manners, begging ho would be as early with him in the Morning as his Buſineſs would permit, but his Deſign was to give them the Drop before, if poſſible, to do which about Three a Clock he went to work and took off his Hand-cuffs,

and then twiſted a ſmall Iron Link of the Chain between his Legs aſunder, uſing the broken Pieces as occaſion offered, and then he drew the Feet-Locks up to the Calves of his Legs, taking off his Stockings, and with his Garters made them firm to his Body, to prevent their Shackling, and then with the broken Links aforeſaid, made a Hole in the Chimney of the Caſtle about three Foot-wide, and ſix Foot high from the Floor, wrenching an Iron Bar of the Chimney, of about two Foot and an half in length, and an Inch ſquare, which proved of very great ſervice to him, and with which he went to work upon the Nut of the Lock of the *Red Room* directly over the Caſtle, where ſome of the *Preſton* Rebels had been formerly kept, and which had not been open in ſeven Years, altho' he was ſcarce ſeven Minutes in doing of it, where he found a large Nail, which was of great Uſe in his farther Attempts, as you ſhall hear preſently. But the Door of the Entry between the *Red Room* and the *Chapel* proved more difficult, for here he was forced to break down the Wall, and diſlodged the Bolt which was faſtened on the other Side, which could not be done without Noiſe, and made him afraid of being heard by the Maſter-ſide Debtors: But Fortune favouring him here, he vowed he ſhould love the Church more than ever he did in his Life, if he could but break off alſo one of the Iron Spikes, which he eaſily did, and got over the others, and then opening the Door of the Inſide of the *Chapel*, leading to the Leads, he took the Nut from off the Lock, and got into the Entry between the Chapel and the Leads, where he met with another ſtrong Door, which being ſtrongly locked, his Heart began to fail him, it being growing dark; but knowing no Time was to be loſt he fell to work, and in leſs than half an Hour, by the Help of the Nail and

Spike

Spike he wrenched the Box off, and made the Door fly open, puſhing ſtill on, he met with another ſtrong Door guarded with Bolts, Bars, and Locks, (when he heard St. *Sepulchre*'s Clock ſtrike eight) which he made fly before him as the reſt, and then unbolting the Door leading to the lower Leads, he found where he was, and from thence climbing into the higher Leads, he went over the Wall, and ſeeing the Shops ſtill open, where conſidering into his preſent Poſture of Affairs, he judged it neceſſary to return back into his Room, and fetch the Blanket which was uſed to cover him, to facilitate his Eſcape, which having done, he fixed the ſame with the Chapel Spike into the Wall, and dropt from it on the Turner's Leads about Nine a Clock, were finding the Door upon the Leads open, he ſtole ſoftly down two pair of Stairs, where he heard Company a talking, but his Irons giving a Clink, a Woman ſtarted and cried, *Lord, what a Noiſe is that?* to which a Man anſwers, *A Dog or a Cat*, and ſo *Jack* returned ſafe to the Garret and reſted himſelf, where he continued above two Hours, and then ventur'd down once more, where he heard a Gentleman taking his Leave, and ſaw the Maid light him down Stairs, whom he reſolved to follow at all Hazards, which he did as ſoon as the Maid came back and ſhut the Chamber-door, but had like to have ſpoiled all by ſtumbling againſt it; however, he got clear, and paſſed by St. *Sepulchre*'s Watch-houſe bidding them *Good-Morrow*, it being juſt paſt Twelve, and ſo down *Snowhill*, and up *Holbourn*, leaving St. *Andrew*'s Watch on the Left, and then paſſing the Watch-houſe at *Holbourn Bars*, he made down *Grays Inn-Lane* unto the Fields, and by Two in the Morning got to *Tottenham-Court*, in a Cow-houſe, where he laid himſelf down to Reſt, and ſlept till Five in the Morning.

When he awaked he begun to examine his Pockets; and found Fifty Shillings in them, but ving no Friend to ſend to, he did not know what to do, however he thought himſelf very ſafe, becauſe it rained very hard, and no Body was to be ſeen in the Fields, ſo that he lay ſnug till the Evening, and then ventur'd into *Tottenham*, where, at a Chandler's Shop, he got ſome Refreſhment, but ſtill wanted the neceſſary Utenſils to get off his Irons, he returned to his old Dormitory, and lay quiet till Night, and then went for more Victuals, and ſlept that Night till Six the next Morning, and then began to beat off his Irons, but all to no purpoſe, till the Owner of the Barn came in, and ſeeing his Irons, asked him what Buſineſs he had there? Who anſwer'd, he was eſcaped out of *Bridewel*, where he was committed for getting of a *Baſtard Child*, which having a little before been the Man's own Caſe he let him go; afterwards ſeeing a Shoe-maker, he told him the ſame Story, and offered him Twenty Shillings for a Hammer and a Punch, which the poor Man for the Sake of the Money borrowed for him, and alſo aſſiſted him to get of the Irons, which they did before five, and he gave the Money and the Irons, if they would be of any Service to him, and then made the beſt of his way to *Charing-croſs*, where he refreſhed himſelf with roaſt Veal, and heard them talking about *Sheppard*, and then going to a little Ale-houſe in *Rupert ſtreet*, he ſtaid there till the Evening, and removing into the *Hay-market*, he mixt with a Crowd about two Ballad-ſingers which were ſinging about him, which being over he took a Lodging in *Newport-Market*, and ſent for an old Sweet-heart, whom he ſent to his Mother's with a Letter in *Clare-Market*, which was as follows.

October

October 20. 1714.

My dear loving Mother,

THIS with my Duty to you, hoping theſe Lines will find you in good Health, as I am at this preſent Writing; and this is to let you know, that in my Attempt (by the Aſſiſtance of God) the Fortune that I had in making my Eſcape from the Caſtle of Newgate, *ſaved my Life, and I hope that (by the Grace of God) I ſhall keep my ſelf from any more of ſuch heinous Crimes, and from the Hands of my Enemies. And dear Mother caſt not your ſelf down, but be of good Heart, for I hope to be as much Comfort to you as ever I was Diſhonour. I would fain let you know where I am but dare not, for fear of Miſcarriage; ſo no more at preſent, but I reſt*

Your Loving, Dutiful,
Misfortunate Son,
John Sheppard.

And then writes two more, to Mr. *Appleby* and Mr. *Auſtin*, which were as follows.

Mr, Appleby.

THIS with my kind Love to you, and pray give my kind Service to Mr. Wagſtaff, *hoping theſe Lines will find you in good Health, as I am at preſent, but I muſt own you are the Loſer, for want of my* Dying Speech: *But to make up your Loſs, if you think this Sheet worth your while, pray make the beſt of it; though they do ſay, that I am taken amongſt the Smugglers, and put in* Dover Caſtle, *yet I hope I am amongſt Smugglers ſtill; ſo no more, but*

Your humble Servant,
John Sheppard.

And I desire you would be the *Post-man* to my Lodging, so farewell, now I quite the *English* Shore.

Mr. Austin,

YOU *was pleased to pass your Jokes upon me, and did say, you should not be angry with me, had I took my Leave of you: But now pray keep your Jokes to your self, let them laugh that win, for now it is an equal Chance, you to take me, or I to get away; but I own my self guilty of that ill Manners; but excuse me, for my Departure being private and necessary, spoiled the Ceremony of bidding* Adieu. *But I wish you all well, as I am at present; but pray be not angry for the Loss for your Irons, had not you gave me them, I had not taken them away, but really I had left them behind me, had Conveniency serv'd, so pray don't be angry.*

How *Austin* and *Perry* you did say,
If are the *SHEPPARD* got away,
That in his room hang'd you be,
Upon that fatal *Tyburn* Tree.

But that rash Way I pray forsake,
Though *Sheppard* is so fortunate,
I would have you with Patience wait,
Till that again you do him take.

For you are large and heavy Men,
And twice the Weight what was of him;
And if a Way to that Tree you take,
Upon my Word, you'd make it shake.

So farewell now, my Leave I take, and what's amiss done, you write, for my Schoolarship is but small.

This from your fortunate Prisoner,

JOHN SHEPPARD.

But

But in the mean time *Sheppard* wanting new Rigging he went into *Monmouth-ſtreet*, where ſeeing a young Woman in a Shop, he jumps over a Hatch, knocks the Woman down, puts out the Candle, and takes what he wants, and marches off quietly; but that not being ſufficient, he went the next Night to Mr. *Rawlinſon*'s a Pawn-broker in *Drury-lane*, where ſeeing two Men in Bed, he calls out *Tom, Harry, &c.* and bid them ſhoot, if they durſt but ſtir, when there was no Body with him but himſelf, from whence he took a black Suit of Cloaths, a Silver hilted Sword, and a light Tye Wig for his wearing, and ſome Watches, Diamond Rings, Snuff-Boxes, and Money for his preſent Expences: But going next *Evening* with his finery into *Clare-Market*, he got drunk, and meeting *Moll Friskey*, he would needs treat her with a Stake, when going into a Butcher's Shop to buy it, he was known by an Alehouſe Boy who came in for his Pots, and diſcovered it to his Maſter, who being Headborough took him, and carried him to *Newgate*, where he was ſo drunk that he did not know where he was till next Morning, from whence he was carried the 10th of *November* to *Weſtminſter-Hall*, and the Record of his Conviction at the *Old-Bayley* being read at the *King's-Bench*, the Attorney-General moved for a ſpeedy Execution, againſt which *Sheppard* had nothing to ſay, but begged of the Judges to intercede with his Majeſty for Mercy, pleading his Youth and Neceſſities, and that he deſigned to have left the Kingdom the Day after he was taken, declaring he had no Aſſiſtance, and that if the Court pleaſed, they ſhould ſee him take off his Hand-cuffs before their Faces; but that not availing, after a ſevere Reprimand, he was ordered for Execution, and accordingly was hang'd at *Tyburn* the 16th of the ſame Month, attended both at the *Hall* and at the *Gallows*, by a greater Crowd of People than ever was known

known, where he had not hanged a Quarter of an Hour, before a Soldier cut him down, and it was thought by many, that at laſt he died by the Hands of his own Friends.

Jack Sheppard's EPITAPH.

SAmpſon *of old was a ſtrong Man 'tis true,*
But Sampſon *was a Boy, bold* Jack *to you;*
When once confin'd and chain'd, he never fled,
But pull'd his Priſon Walls upon his Head:
With Malice in his Heart, his Strength he tries,
And to deſtroy his Keepers, with them dies;
But he has ſhewn ſuperior Strength and Brains,
Tho' more confin'd, and bound in ſtronger Chains:
He forc'd his Priſon Walls by dint of Arm,
And then took Care to do himſelf no harm;
From his Stone Caſtle *mounts the loſty Church,*
And leaves his watchful Guardians *in the Lurch;*
From thence with Reſolution takes his Flight,
And (like a Chriſtian*) bids his fellow Rogues good*
(Night.

FINIS.

Jonathan Wild's *Canting Dictionary, English* before the *Canting*.

A. B.

A Curious Wench, *Rum Mort.*
An Apron, *Belly Cheat.*
An Inſtrument to break a Door, *Betty.*
A Part or Share, *Earing.*
An Hole, *Ferm.*
A Goat, *Flag.*
A Receiver of ſtollen Goods, *Fencing Cully.*
A Gentlewoman, *Gentry mort.*
A Door, *Gigger.*
Any Writing or Paſs, *Gybe.*
A Guinea or Job, *Hackie-lour.*
A little Child, *Kinchin.*
A little Man, *Kinchin-cove.*
A private Dwelling-houſe, *Libben.*
All manner of Cloths, *Lurries.*
All Sorts of Thieves. *Priggs.*
Any ſort of Meat, *Peck* or *Peckidge.*
Any Face, *Peak.*
A notorious Rogue, *Ruffler.*
An Arm, *Smiter.*
An Arſe, *Oracker.*
Andirons, *Grimfenders,*
Agree with a Man, *Fangraſp the Cove*
Angry, *Glim flaſhy.*

B

Bat-boy. *Squeeker.*
Beadle of *Bridewell*, *Flogging Cove.*

Better,

Better, *Renor.*
Bridewell, *Naskin.*
Beggar-born, *Claperdogeon.*
Boghouſe or Privy, *Croppinken.*
Bed, *Libege.*
Bottle, *Bouſing-cheat.*
Begg, *Maund.*
Beggars, *Maunders.*
Bread, *Pannam.*
Be careful of what you ſay, *Stow your wilds and plant 'em.*
Bridle, *Nabgrider.*
Bolt or Shackles, *Crampings.*
Body, *Quarron.*
Baſe or Roguiſh, *Queer.*
Bacon, *Ruff Peck.*
Baſtard, *Stall-whimper.*
Brokers, *Fencing-Culley.*
Belated, *Hood-winkt.*
Blind-men, *Gropers.*
Barn, *Skippers.*

C. D.

Bar of an Alehouſe or Tavern, *Pouting Kane.*
Be wary, *Stow your whids.*
Brokers Shop, *Scallen Ken.*
Beaten, *Chaft.*
Breaſt, *Heaver.*

C.

Cart, *Tumbler.*
Coach-beggars, *Ratling Mumpers.*
Cloak-bag, *Roger* or *Peter.*
Cheat, *Napper.*
Coach, *Ratler.*
Chamber Pot, *Jockumgage.*
Coachman, *Smacking Cove.*
Conſtable, *Hirnman-beak.*
Candleſtick, *Glym-ſtick.*
Cut the Cloak-bag, *Flick the Peter.*
Corn, *Grannum.*
Cluſter of Grapes, *Rum bozing welts.*
Carriers, *Denſeavile Stampers.*
Cloaked, *Frammagen'd.*
Crutch, *Lifter or Plyer.*
Copulate, *Wap or Jockum cloy.*
Country, *Denſeavile.*
Counterfeit, *Couſeck.*
Crafty Fellow, *Clincher.*
Cruſt, *Crackler.*
Cheeſe, *Caſh* or *Chaſſan.*
Chicken, *Cackling Cheat.*
Cloak, *Calley or Togeman.*
Cheat or Couzin, *Bite.*
Church, *Autem.*
Coat, *Miſh-topper.*
Cow, *Mower.*

D.

Drawers of Wine, *Rum-Hoppers.*
Dog, *Bugbar.*
Drink, *Booze.*
Drouſie, *Peeping.*
Dumb, *Cank.*
Ditch, *Jague.*
Day or day break, *Light-mans.*
Drunken, *Nazy.*
Dry or thirſt, *Chapt.*
Drunkard, *Nazy Cove.*
Duck, *Quacking-cheat.*
Devil, *Ruffin.*
Diſh, *Skew.*
Drover, *Mower-heater.*

E.

Eggs, *Cackling Farts.*
Enter or go into an Houſe, *Dub.*
Eyes, *Ogles* or *Glaziers.*
Ends of Gold or Silver, *Spangles.*

F.

Fellows that pick up People for Tranſportation called Spirits, *Kidnappers.*
Face, *Muns.*
Fool or Coxcomb, *Nizie.*
Fearful, *Peery.*
Fly or run, *Bruſh.*
Fop, or one that may eaſily be wrought upon, *Cully.*
Fire, *Glymmer.*
Feet, *Stampers.*

G

Gold, *Mynt.*
Genteel Beggars, *Mumpers.*
Goal, *Naskin.*
Gallows, *Trim* or *Topping cheat.*
Gallant, *Rum.*
Goldſmith, *Ridge Cully.*
Garden or Noſegay, *Smelling cheat.*
Goes up the Stairs, *Track up the Dancers.*
Give, *Tip.*
Glaſs, *Flicker.*
Glaſs broken, *Flicker-ſnapt.*

H.

High-way, *Topping Cove.*
Highway-man, *Rum Pad.*
Horſe, *Rum Padders.*
Horſe ſtealers, *Prancers.*
Head, *Nab.*

Hat

Hat, *Nab-cheat.*
Half-penny, *Make.*
Houſe, *Kin.*
Hanſts, *Fambles.*
Hoſe, *Drawers.*
Hoſteſs, *Su-pouch.*
Heart, *Panter.*
Hoſt, *Bluffer.*

I.

Ingage, *Bolt the Shirp.*

K.

King of the Link Boys, *Rum Glymmer.*
Knavery, *Quer topping.*

L.

Link-boy, *Moon curſet,* or *Glym Jack.*
Looking-Glaſs, *Peeper.*
London, *Rumvile.*
Legs, *Stampers.*
Licence, *Fubrum.*
Look through the Caſement, *Tout thro' the Wicket.*
Lips, *Gans.*
Lye, *Coker.*

M.

Maſs, *Salomon.*
Mallard, *Red ſhank.*
Milk-pottage, *Papler.*
Money, *Loure,*
Married Women, *Autem Mort.*
Madmen, *Dommerars.*
Man, *Cone.*

N.

Noſe, *Gigg.*
Neck, *Nub.*
Newgate, *Whit.*
Night or Evening, *Dark Man*
Naked, *Abram.*

O

One that ſlips into an Houſe in the Dark, and ſteals what he can lay hand on, *Budge.*

One that creeps in at Caſements, and lets in others to rob the Houſe, *Glazier.*

One that filcheth Commodities out of a Shop, under the Pretence of cheapning or buying, *Shoplift.*

One that lyeth underneath a Bed, or in ſome other covert Place, to watch an Opportunity to rob the Houſe, *Snudge.*

One

One whoſe Father is born a Beggar, O Q P on the Stairs, *Blow off on the Groundſell.*

Riding, *Prigging.*
Riders, *Priggers.*
Rogue, *Queer Cove.*

P.

Pottage, *Lap.*
Pork, *Grunting Peck.*
Peaſe, *Trundlars,*
Partners to Flies, *Shoulder ſhame.*
Piece of old Gold, *Old Mr. Gory.*
Portmantle, *Peeter,*
Priſon, *Queer Ken.*
Peny, *Win.*
Picklock, *Gilt.*
Pop or Pipe, *Gage*
Pretty, *Dimber.*
Plague, *Cannakin.*
Pox, *Bubo.*
Purſe, *Bung.*
Poor fellow, *Abram Cove.*

Q.

Queſtion, *Starter.*

R.

Raſcal, *Damber.*
Rings or Gloves, *Famble Cheats.*
Rich Cockcomb, *Rum Cully.*
Ride, *Prig,*

S.

Shilling, *Bord or Hog.*
Sheep, *Bleating Cheats.*
Steal the Portmantle, *Bite the Roger.*
Shirt, *Miſh.*
Spaak, *Cat.*
Stockings, *Drawers.*
Sucking Pig, *Grunting, Cheat.*
Stocks, *Harmans.*
Sixpence, *Half a Hog.*
Silver, *Watcher.*
Silver bowl, *Watcher bubber.*
Silver-Smith, *Witcher Cully.*
Steaw, *Strummel.*
Sheets, *Slates.*
Stockings, *Stock-drawers.*
Shoes, *Stamps.*
Shop, *Swang.*
Sought after with a Warrant, *Rumboyld.*
Sheep-ſtealer, *Napper of Naps.*
Steal, *Milk* or *Cly.*
Seal, *Jark.*

To

T.

Teeth, *Cruſhing Cheats.*
To lye, *Couch.*
To go to ſleep, *Couch a Hogs Head.*
To ſpeak well, *Cut ben whids.*
To ſpeak ill, *Cut Queer whids.*
To to whipt, *Cly the Jerk.*
Two-pence, *Denſwains.*
Three-pence, *Treſwins.*
Tobacco, *Fogus.*
To take Tobacco, *Raiſe a Cloud.*
To beat, *Fib.*
To ſpend or lay out, *Fence.*
Teeth, *Grinders.*
To rob an Houſe, *Heave a Booth.*
To tumble together, *Lib.*
Tranſported, *Marinate.*
To lay place or hide, *Plant.*
Tongue, *Prating Cheat.*
To run away, *Pikes.*
To wear, *Scour.*
To look, *Tour.*
To hang, *Trim.*
The Seſſions-houſe, *Nubbin Ken.*
Turkey, *Coble Colt.*

FINIS.

MR 64